

## Case Briefing Template

*Name of the Case*, pg in your book where you can find the case  
Court (Date)

**Parties:** Plaintiff: Explanation of who the plaintiff is. It is not enough to simply put the person's name. You need the important, relevant information. Perhaps describe plaintiff in relation to the defendant, or any relevant qualities or characteristics or damage suffered

Defendant: Same as above, only here you're describing the defendant.

**Procedural History:** Here you want to explain what happened before the case got to this court and how it ended up here. For example, you want to know: (1) Who was suing whom in the court below? (2) For what? (3) How did the trial court rule? (4) Who is appealing? (5) On what grounds? (6) For what relief?

**Facts:** What happened in the case? Here you want to include the relevant facts—those facts that mattered in reaching the result. You do not need to include irrelevant facts. For instance, if it was a sunny day when the incident at issue occurred, but the weather did not matter in the case, you wouldn't need to include the fact that it was sunny. However, if you were briefing a case about a car accident and weather was a factor in determining negligence, you would include this fact here.

**Issue:** The question the court is deciding.

**Holding/Rule:** What rule of law is formulated by this case? What did the court decide? This should respond directly to the issue raised in the case.

**Reasoning:** Why did the court reach its decision? What relevant principles of law did the court rely on in making its decision. How did it apply the facts to the law. Were there policy considerations?