

## HOW TO BRIEF A CASE

1. **TITLE AND CITATION:** Parties of the case and legal citation.
2. **FACTS OF THE CASE:** A brief statement of the circumstances that brought about this case or controversy, identifying the parties and the holdings of lower courts.
3. **LEGAL QUESTION(S) PRESENTED:** The legal question presented is often concisely stated by the Court at the outset of an opinion or the sections in an opinion dealing with specific questions presented. You should answer each question presented “yes” or “no.”
4. **HOLDING:** A statement of the Court’s ruling and whether it affirmed or reversed the lower court’s decision.
5. **OPINION FOR THE COURT:** The opinion refers to the legal reasoning which the Court offers as a justification for its holding. The Court’s reasoning should be outlined point by point.
6. **SEPARATE OPINIONS:** Both concurring opinions and dissenting opinions should be noted and their major points emphasized.
7. **ANALYSIS:** A statement of the case’s legal, history, and political importance, as well as criticisms of the justices’ opinions and reasoning.