

IRAC Case Brief Template

Complete all sections in your own words. Do not copy sentences from the opinion.

NAME 	CASE NAME & YEAR 	DATE
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F

Facts

What happened? Who are the parties? How did the case reach the Supreme Court?

Summarize only the facts the Court considers relevant. Include the parties, what happened, and the procedural history.

I

Issue

State the constitutional question as a specific legal question

Begin with 'Whether...' or 'Does/Did...' — state the issue as a precise legal question, not a topic.

R

Rule

Name the constitutional provision AND the specific legal standard or test the Court applies

Constitutional provision (amendment, clause):

Legal standard / test the Court applies:

A

Application

Trace the Court's reasoning — how did it apply the Rule to the facts? Do not just summarize the outcome.

Key facts the majority emphasized:

How the majority applied the Rule to those facts:

Arguments the Court accepted / rejected:

C**Conclusion**

State the holding clearly. Then complete: "This decision established that..."

The Court held:

This decision established that:

O**Opinion Analysis**

Majority · Concurring · Dissent

Majority Opinion*Author:*

Vote:

Key reasoning:

Concurring Opinion (if any)*Author:*

Agrees with outcome but not reasoning — why?

Dissenting Opinion*Author:*

Core argument — why the majority is wrong:

Why this dissent matters:



Self-check before submitting

- Issue is stated as a specific legal question
- Application traces the reasoning, not just the outcome
- Conclusion states the holding AND its precedential significance
- I briefed the dissent and explained its core argument
- I can explain this case out loud without looking at my brief
- Rule names both the constitutional provision AND the legal standard
- I explained which facts the Court found most important and why
- Every component is written in my own words — no copied sentences
- I ended with “This decision established that...”
- I connected the holding to the broader constitutional principle

The test of a good brief: Close your template and explain this case to a classmate in two minutes. If you can state the constitutional question, the rule applied, the Court's reasoning, and the holding in your own words — you have genuinely understood it.