

Case Study Activity Sheet

FACTS:

- What happened in this case?
- Who are the parties in this case?
- What did they do that caused this to be a legal case?
- How did the lower court(s) decide this problem?

ISSUES:

- What legal question(s) must the appellate court decide in order to resolve this dispute?
(Remember that appellate courts have the power only to resolve the actual disputes between the parties. They don't have the power to create broad legal rules.)

RULE:

- What is the law to be applied to the legal issue?

ARGUMENTS:

- What are the primary arguments advanced by each side?
- What are the merits of these arguments?

DECISION:

- How was this case decided? What is the reasoning behind the decision? Do you agree or disagree with the decision?
- Is there a dissenting opinion?
- What is the reasoning behind the dissenting opinion?

CONCLUSION:

- Exactly what precedent is established by this case?
- Where will that precedent apply?
- Are there some important questions related to this case that have not yet been decided? If so, what are they? How should they be decided?

Source: Matt Johnson, social studies teacher, Benjamin Banneker Senior High School, Washington, D.C.