

How to Read a Case



Read a case once and understand it. Follow the steps to below to ensure you're well prepared to answer you professor's questions. You'll get the complete picture of the case and you won't miss important points of law.

Top three tips:

REVIEW THE CASE SUMMARY

The Case Summary is great for beating the "Socratic Method." Providing a short breakdown of facts and parties. It's a detailed primer for the opinion, including Procedural Posture, Overview and Outcome.



READ THE OPINION

The opinion is the written determination of the court. After reviewing the Case Summary you'll know exactly what to look for as you highlight and annotate your way through the opinion.



LEXIS HEADNOTES ARE A SAFETY NET

The LexisNexis Headnotes cover the key points of law from the opinion in the exact language of the court. They are not summaries. This means that you will recognize opinion language in the Headnotes, helping to ensure comprehension.