

Shortcuts analyzing cases using the IRAC method
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First, solve the IRAC Triad

Step 1: The *facts* of a case suggest an **Issue**.

Get the **facts**

What *facts and circumstances* brought these parties to court?

Are there *buzzwords* in the facts that suggest an issue?

Is the court deciding a *question of fact* - i.e. the parties are in dispute over what happened - or is it a *question of law* - i.e. the court is unsure which rule to apply to these facts?

What are the *non-issues*?

Step 2: The *issue* is governed by a **Rule** of law.

Identify the **rule**

The legal issue would not exist unless some event occurred.

The issue mechanically determines what rule is applied.

What are the *elements* that prove the rule?

What are the *exceptions* to the rule?

From what *authority* does it come? **Common law, statute**, new rule?

What's the underlying *public policy* behind the rule?

Are there *social considerations*?

Step 3: Compare the facts to the *rule* to form the **Analysis**.

Which facts help prove which elements of the rule?

Why are certain facts relevant?

How do these facts satisfy this rule?

What types of facts are applied to the rule?

How do these facts further the public policy underlying

What's the counter-argument for another solution?

Do the facts satisfy the requirements of the rule?

Step two: Now, rewrite in IRAC format:

1. Issue

What *facts and circumstances* brought these parties to court?

"*The facts of a case suggest an Issue.*"

2. Rule

"*The issue is covered by a Rule of law.*"

What is the *governing law* for the issue?

3. Analysis

"*Compare the facts to the rule to form the Analysis.*"

Does the rule *apply* to these unique facts?

4. Conclusion

"*From the analysis you come to a Conclusion as to whether the rule applies to the facts.*"

How does the *court's holding* modify the rule of law?

Additional Information

I created this chart from information found on the Law Nerds web site. Other than the layout, these works are not my own.

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