MINNESOTA YMCA YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT
Case Analysis Sheet

Case Name: _____   Case #: _____

Partner name: _____   Delegation: _____

Partner name: _____   Delegation: _____

INTRODUCTION

Who is the Appellant? _____

Does the Appellant want the trial court's decision overturned or upheld?

overturned   upheld
(circle one)

Who is the Respondent? _____

Does the Respondent want the trial court's decision overturned or upheld?

overturned   upheld
(circle one)

PROCEDURAL HISTORY

By the time the case gets to the Court of Appeals, the questions in this case have already been addressed by the trial court. Answer the following questions about the trial court's decision.

At the trial court, who won? (Appellant or Respondent) _____

On Issue 1, what did the trial court decide? Why?

On Issue 2, what did the trial court decide? Why?

ISSUES

What is the question that the court must answer for Issue 1? (rephrase Issue 1 from your case file in the form of a "yes or no" question)

What is the answer that the Appellant wants in response to that question? (yes or no) _____

What is the answer that the Respondent wants in response to that question? (yes or no) _____

What is the question that the court must answer for Issue 2? (rephrase Issue 2 from your case file in the form of a "yes or no" question)

What is the answer that the Appellant wants in response to that question? (yes or no) _____

What is the answer that the Respondent wants in response to that question? (yes or no) _____

THE RULE OF LAW

Each issue in this case is governed by a basic "rule of law." The rule of law is the basic law that the court must apply to the facts of your case. This is sometimes referred to as the "test" a court must apply in order to respond to an issue in a case. After reading the "Summary of the Issues and Legal Background," respond to the following prompts with respect to each issue.

For Issue 1, summarize the "rule of law" in 1-3 sentences.

For Issue 2, summarize the "rule of law" in 1-3 sentences.

THE PRIOR CASE LAW – ISSUE 1

Although we have a "rule of law" for each issue in this case, you might have realized by now that the rule of law does not exactly answer the question given the facts of this particular case. Each of the three prior cases, or "legal precedents," provided for each issue interprets or expands on the basic rule of law in some way. The way that those cases interpreted the law may help or hurt your case, depending on how well the prior cases "fit" your case in terms of the reasoning and the facts. The following prompts will help you decide whether the prior cases help or hurt the Appellant or the Respondent, and this will help you use these cases in your argument.

Does Prior Case 1 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

Does Prior Case 2 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

Does Prior Case 3 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

THE PRIOR CASE LAW – ISSUE 2

Although we have a "rule of law" for each issue in this case, you might have realized by now that the rule of law does not exactly answer the question given the facts of this particular case. Each of the three prior cases, or "legal precedents," provided for each issue interprets or expands on the basic rule of law in some way. The way that those cases interpreted the law may help or hurt your case, depending on how well the prior cases "fit" your case in terms of the reasoning and the facts. The following prompts will help you decide whether the prior cases help or hurt the Appellant or the Respondent, and this will help you use these cases in your argument.

Does Prior Case 1 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

Does Prior Case 2 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

Does Prior Case 3 help the Appellant, Respondent, or neither? Explain why in 3-5 sentences.

THE FACTS

Based on your understanding of the rule of law and the prior cases, you should now understand that certain facts as described in your case file will be helpful to the Appellant, and some will be helpful for the Respondent.

Based on your understanding of the law for Issue 1, what facts of this case will be helpful for the Appellant?

Based on your understanding of the law for Issue 1, what facts of this case will be helpful for the Respondent?

Based on your understanding of the law for Issue 2, what facts of this case will be helpful for the Appellant?

Based on your understanding of the law for <u>Issue 2</u>, what facts of this case will be helpful for the <u>Respondent</u>?

<u>ARGUMENTS</u>

Your argument for each issue in this case will have three components: (1) your interpretation of the law (the basic rule + interpretations provided by prior cases), (2) the application of your interpretation of the law to the facts of this case, and (3) your argument about how the appeals court should rule based on your interpretation of the law and the facts.

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – Summarize the law in the way most favorable to the <u>Appellant</u>.

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – Describe why the law as applied to the facts of the case means that the <u>Appellant</u> should win.

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – In one sentence, explain what the <u>Appellant</u> wants the appeals court to do (i.e. "Overturn the trial court's decision because…).

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – Summarize the law in the way most favorable to the <u>Respondent</u>.

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – Describe why the law as applied to the facts of the case means that the <u>Respondent</u> should win.

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 1</u> – In one sentence, explain what the <u>Respondent</u> wants the appeals court to do (i.e. "Uphold the trial court's decision because...).

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – Summarize the law in the way most favorable to the <u>Appellant</u>.

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – Describe why the law as applied to the facts of the case mean that the <u>Appellant</u> should win.

Appellant's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – In one sentence, explain what the <u>Appellant</u> wants the appeals court to do (i.e. "Overturn the trial court's decision because...).

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – Summarize the law in the way most favorable to the <u>Respondent</u>.

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – Describe why the law as applied to the facts of the case mean that the <u>Respondent</u> should win.

Respondent's Argument for <u>Issue 2</u> – In one sentence, explain what the <u>Respondent</u> wants the appeals court to do (i.e. "Uphold the trial court's decision because…)