

Presenting a Case: Organization & Vocabulary

Section of your presentation	Language to introduce and connect your ideas
<p>Citation – <i>The name of the case and the date it was decided</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Today I'm going to introduce you to ____ v. ____ • Today I'm going to talk about ____ v. ____ • The case I've chosen to discuss is ____ v. ____
<p>Facts – <i>Briefly indicate ...</i></p>	<p><i>The reasons for the suit</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Let me briefly go over the background of this case. • This case involved ... • This case was about (a dispute between ...) <p><i>The identities of the parties</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The plaintiff (petitioner) in the case was ... • The defendant in the case was ... <p><i>Lower court decisions (if appropriate)</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The first court to hear the case ruled that ... • Lower courts dealing with this case had said that ...
<p>Issue – <i>State concisely what the court was being asked to decide</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The key issue in this case involved • The main issue before the court was ... • The question the court had to resolve was ...
<p>Decision – <i>Summarize the decision (e.g., yes or no)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Supreme Court said ... • By a (5 to 4) margin, the Supreme Court ruled that ...
<p>Reasoning – <i>Summarize the court's explanation of its decision (an article in the constitution, a specific amendment, etc.)</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Court explained its ruling this way. ... • The Court based its ruling on ... • In a dissenting opinion, Justice X said ...