

**X v. Y**  
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- F:** This is where you will write down the central **facts** of the case. Try to write this section as a tight narrative.
  
- P:** The **procedure** section tells us how this case came to be in front of the court. Again, you want to be concise. The procedural issues often determine the case as much or more than the facts or legal issues. Courts have very different incentives if the case is a final death penalty appeal moments before the lethal chemicals are injected, or an evidentiary question posed when someone has just been arrested.
  
- I:** The **issue** statement is the key to the brief. A great issue statement boils down the facts, procedures, and legal problems into a single short question. Really great issue statements tell you what the answer should be because of how the question is framed.
  
- H:** The **holding** is where you state what the court decided. It should answer the question of the issue statement with a yes or no.
  
- R:** This is where you describe the **rationale** that the court gave to justify its holding in this case. This section can be a bit longer, but should still be “brief.”