

Lesson 2 Personal Reflection: First Case Brief

Emily Lane

Department of Higher Education, The Penn State University

HIED 849: Legal Issues in Higher Education

Dr. Mary Roberg

September 5, 2021

How did your brief compare with the sample provided?

My brief has a similar structure to the sample case brief provided. There are some formatting issues such as putting the name of the case in italics and including paragraphs in the "facts of the case section". The sample brief does not ever refer to Johns Hopkins University as JHU, so I am now curious if abbreviations are allowed in case briefings.

The lesson's "Components of a Case Brief" section was extremely helpful in dictating the general structure of a case brief and what to include in each relevant section. My case brief was wordier than the sample case brief, so I will practice summarizing more efficiently in the future. Finally, my case brief and the sample case brief have nearly identical "other opinions" section because the lesson materials were very clear in describing what to include.

Do you feel more confident reading a case?

I do feel much more confident in reading a case after this activity. I was initially very hesitant in reading cases and approached this lesson with too much attention to detail. Now, I see that it is possible to attain a general understanding of a case without fretting about understanding all of the legal jargon.

What will you do to make yourself more confident?

I will keep the sample case brief and the other materials from this lesson accessible and refer to them when I encounter jargon that I am unfamiliar with. I will also practice relaxing while reading cases so I can gain a general understanding of the case rather than feeling nervous that I will not understand at all.

Did you learn or re-learn anything new about the court system?

I learned a lot about the court system from this lesson. Truthfully, I haven't studied anything to do with the structure of the American court systems since high school civics and

economics. I found the NPR podcast to be helpful in describing the influence of the supreme court, and the layout of the lesson taught the fundamentals through addressing general structure before describing legal function and processes.