Case Study Method Questions

* **Case:** What is the full name of the case? When was the case decided?
* **Facts:** What are the facts of the case?
* **Issues:** What are the legal issues in the case? Identify the parties’ particular disputes or issues and the main arguments.
* **Holding:** How did the Court decide the case? Did the Court affirm the lower court’s ruling, overturn the ruling, or send the case back to the lower court for a retrial?
* **Opinions or Reasoning:** What was the majority opinion? Dissenting opinions?
* **Significance:** How important or significant was or is the Court’s decision on American society? “What do you think will be its application beyond the particular facts of the case?” (p.35).
* **Evaluation:** How would you judge the Supreme Court’s decision in this case? What important legal questions remain unanswered? What legal precedent(s) was/were established by this case?

**\***Taken from: Tiffany Middleton, “How to Read a U.S. Supreme Court Opinion,” *Social Education*, National Council for the Social Studies, January/February 2013, pp. 32-35. For the full article visit: [www.socialstudies.org](http://www.socialstudies.org) and search *Social Education*, January/February 2013.