



Precedent Case Comparison Worksheet

Use this worksheet to analyze and apply precedent cases to your assigned YMCA Texas Youth and Government case. This will help you prepare strong arguments for both brief and oral presentation.

Case Details

Precedent Case Name: _____

Citation (Court, Year): _____

Court that decided it: _____

Legal Issue(s): _____

Holding Outcome): _____

Court's Reasoning: _____

Full citation: _____

Short citation: _____

Comparison Chart

Category	Precedent Case	This Case
Key Facts		
Legal Issue		
Court's Decision		
Similar Facts		
Dissimilar Facts		
Applicable Rule of Law		
Use in Argument?	Yes / No	How and why?

Sample Argument Phrases

- "This Court should follow the reasoning in [Case Name] because..."
- "Just like in [Case Name], the facts here also show..."
- "This case is distinguishable from [Case Name] because..."
- "While the opposing team cites [Case Name], that case involved [difference], which is not present here."

Reflection

1. How does this precedent help or hurt your position?

2. How might the opposing team try to use or distinguish this case?

3. What questions might a judge ask you about this precedent?

How to Cite a Case

Use the full citation the first time you mention a case. Afterward, you can shorten it.

Format Examples:

- Full citation: *Miranda v. Arizona*, 384 U.S. 436 (1966)
- Short form: *Miranda*, 384 U.S. 436
- If citing again immediately: *Id.*

Common Abbreviations:

- "U.S." = United States Supreme Court
- "F.3d" = Federal Court of Appeals, Third Series
- "F.2d" = Federal Court of Appeals, Second Series
- "F. Supp." = Federal District Court (Federal Supplement)
- "S.W.3d" = Southwestern Reporter, Third Series (Texas Courts)
- "Tex." = Texas Supreme Court
- "Tex. Crim. App." = Texas Court of Criminal Appeals
- "Tex. App." = Texas Courts of Appeal (usually followed by the city)
- "S. Ct." = United States Supreme Court Reporter
- "Cir." = Circuit Court (e.g., 5th Cir. = Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals)

Note: Only use citations from the provided case packet in a "closed case."