

Using "IRAC" method in BLAW 485  
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IRAC stands for: Issue, Rule, Analysis, Conclusion. It is a method for analyzing a legal problem. On exams, like in most chapter-end questions, you will be asked to apply the rules you have studied to a scenario.

ISSUE: what legal "question(s)" is/are raised by this scenario? Hint: If there is more than one question raised by the scenario, then you should write a separate IRAC for each question (issue).

RULE: what is/are the legal rule(s)/definition(s)/standard(s) which a judge would apply to analyze the issue?

Hint: Include all relevant rules that would be needed to analyze the issue. If there are several rules that you think apply to the issue you have identified, then consider whether you should "break" your issue into two or more issues.

ANALYSIS: To ensure that you consider "both sides," first discuss one party's arguments (e.g. the union or employee) and then discuss the other party's argument (e.g. the employer, "management," or employer association). You might think you need to know more facts than are given in the scenario: what are they and why are they relevant? Include these observations in your analysis where appropriate.

Hints:

1. Outline your analysis before writing in your blue book or typing your answer to a homework "IRAC" question.
2. Use headings in the blue book to organize your analysis: (e.g.)...

Analysis

a. Union

The union will argue that...

b. Employer

The employer will argue that...

3. Consider putting the "losing side" first and the "winning side" last to underscore your conclusion.

CONCLUSION: There is not necessarily a "wrong" conclusion, unless it is wholly unsupported by the applicable rule(s) or your analysis.