

## WHAT DO YOU MEAN, “IRAC”?

### 1. “IRAC” is a method of organizing and presenting information.

I = ISSUE or the question that must be decided.

R = RULE to be applied to the facts to resolve the ISSUE.

A = ANALYSIS, or application, of the RULE to the facts.

(This parallels the legal “reasoning” or “rationale” of the courts.)

C = CONCLUSION, or your answer, on the ISSUE.

(This parallels the “holding” or “judgment” of the courts.)

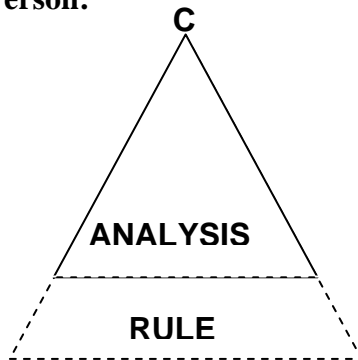
(“IRAAC” is a similar method that you’ll use in your Legal Research & Writing class.

That method simply adds an extra step of analyzing an analogous case.)

### Example:

I = Do you like reality TV?

**Lay Person:**



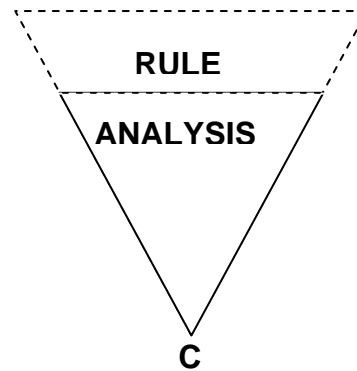
C = Yes

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A = because the events taking place are real events and because the characters are real people.

*We are left to assume the rule based on the analysis. Does this person like any shows that involve real events and real people? What other types of shows might that include?*

**Lawyer:**



R = Generally, I like television shows that are unpredictable and that make me feel emotionally connected to the characters involved.

A = With reality TV, the real-life, unscripted nature of the events makes the shows unpredictable; I never know what’s going to happen. Plus, *because the shows are about real people*, they draw me in and make me feel emotionally connected with the people involved.

C = Thus, I really like reality TV.

### 2. “IRAC” can be multi-layered.

Sub-IRACs and sub-sub-IRACs are necessary when the rule has various elements, each of which must be discussed in the analysis. *Do you see how the above analysis actually has two sub-IRACs? How might you need to break down further the IRAC analysis above (what types of shows might still be included)?*