

IRAC Activity: Applying Law to Facts

Objective

Students will practice breaking down a legal problem using the IRAC method (Issue, Rule, Application, Conclusion) and develop clear, structured legal reasoning.

Part 1: Warm-Up (5–7 minutes)

Answer briefly:

1. What does IRAC stand for?
2. Why is IRAC useful in legal writing?
3. Which two components are the most important, and why?

(Use your notes from the lesson.)

Part 2: Fact Pattern Analysis (Main Activity)

Scenario

Jordan, a 19-year-old college student, enters a bar using a fake ID that shows he is 23. The bartender, Alex, briefly glances at the ID and serves Jordan alcohol. Later, Jordan is discovered to be underage.

Step 1: Identify the Facts (5 minutes)

Write 4–6 key facts:

- Who is involved?
 - What happened?
 - When/where did it occur?
 - Any important details?
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Step 2: Write the Issue (5 minutes)

Write **one sentence**:

Start with:

“The issue is whether...”

Step 3: Identify the Rule (7–10 minutes)

Rule: According to the TABC Chapter 106, serving alcohol to a minor is a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by a fine of \$4,000, confinement in jail for a year, or both. A person’s driver’s license would also be automatically suspended for 180 days when they are convicted. Also, *Jackson v. Billings* (1988) states that the alcohol server has a defense against prosecution if they had reasonably concluded that a fake ID shown by a minor was valid.

Write the legal rule(s):

- What law applies? (statute or common law)
- Include:
 - Elements
 - Any defenses or exceptions

Tip: Avoid vague rules—be specific.

Step 4: Application / Analysis (10–12 minutes)

Write **3–5 sentences**:

- Apply the rule to the facts
- Use:
 - “Because...”
 - “Since...”

* This is the **most important part**

Step 5: Conclusion (3–5 minutes)

Answer the issue:

- What is the likely outcome?
 - Who is liable (if anyone)?
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Part 3: Group Discussion (10 minutes)

In small groups, compare:

- Did everyone identify the same issue?

- Did your rules differ?
- Which application was strongest and why?

Part 4: Extension (Optional / Homework)

Choose one case from class (ex: *Bard v. Jahnke*) and complete a full IRAC.

AI Use Statement: AI was used for structural organization and developmental outlining of author's core original ideas.

