

Petitioner: always comes first in the case name. The person who lost and appealed; "I am suing you".

Respondent: always comes second. The person who has to respond and defend themselves.

Majority opinion: the opinion that took hold, a specific interpretation.

Dissenting opinion: the secondary opinions that were unable to take hold and are in opposition to the majority.

Concurring opinion: the secondary opinions that are a different interpretation but still will be voting however the majority works.

Landmark case: a case that creates or overwrites precedents.

Writ of certiorari: "I am going to look at your claim." For appellate cases, the case goes up and eventually reaches the Supreme Court. For original cases, the cases go up directly. Either way, the court must have four justices agreeing to hear the case.

Stare decisis: "If we ruled this way before, we have to rule this way in future (unless we say otherwise)". The principle of stare decisis states this and establishes how the court rules.