# Case Analysis Model

Throughout this course, you will practice writing and presenting case analyses for ethical and legal scenarios provided by your instructor. Some are in your textbook and others will be provided in class.

A case analysis incorporates the elements of logic and formal argument as discussed in   
Module 1. These principles and the skills you develop performing case analyses will help to prepare you for the Debate and Brief, which is your major project for this course.

## Why do a case analysis?

A case analysis is a structured way to understand all the factors in a complex situation more objectively, in order to make better decisions and/or predictions. It is an essential critical-thinking skill.

In addition, if you are asked to give your opinion on a situation or issue, you will need to be able to see that issue or situation from all perspectives in order to give a solid opinion. A good decision is based on your understanding, and you will need to be able to justify your position. These are important skills to have as a professional, as you will undoubtedly be asked to provide advice at certain points in your career.

Whether providing a formal written analysis or a less formal oral presentation, try to ensure that you follow the approach outlined below:

* Succinctly describe the incident you will analyze (unless it is from an exercise in the textbook that everyone should be familiar with).
* Clearly state the perspective from which you will analyze the incident.
* Identify the participants in the scenario and the role that each plays.
* Identify the perspective of each participant and any assumptions implicit in that perspective.
* Identify the principal ethical concerns in the scenario.
* State the theoretical standpoint you are taking in the analysis and any assumptions that are implicit in that standpoint.
* Discuss the morality of the participants in the scenario from your theoretical standpoint.
* Provide justification or evidence for all claims that you make.
* Construct clearly stated, strong arguments.