

Beginning Case-Reading Worksheet for *Meints v. Huntington*

**Adapted in part from: Developing the Right Reading Habits- by Ruth Ann McKinney, UNC*

Developing new reading habits takes conscious effort. The best way to develop healthy reading habits in law is to force yourself to think consciously about what you are reading and how you are reading it. Please read *Meints v. Huntington*, complete this worksheet, and bring it with you to the Orientation Session entitled “Introduction to Reading Cases and Writing Case Briefs.”

A. Before You Read the Case

My purpose for reading this case today is: *Read the case for the first day of Orientation. During Orientation, you and your classmates will read five (5) false imprisonment cases, brief each case, examine the rule for false imprisonment, and discuss the courts’ reasoning in deciding whether a false imprisonment occurred within a particular set of facts. In addition, we will examine a new false imprisonment hypothetical, apply the rule from the cases, and analyze the facts to develop arguments for or against liability for false imprisonment.*

B. As You Read the Case: Please check all that apply.

___ I marked sections that made no sense and decided whether to figure them out or move on. If I decided to figure them out, I did the following:

- ___ made an inference from the content
- ___ looked up a word in a legal dictionary
- ___ reread the section more carefully
- ___ read ahead to see if there were cues later in the case
- ___ paraphrased in my own words, using Plain English
- ___ other

___ I asked questions of the opinion’s author (the judge) and/or responded to thoughts the judge expressed in the opinion.

___ I visualized the operative facts.

___ I considered how this case wound through the courts and got here.

_____ I am still confused about:

_____ I feel satisfied about:

C. After Reading the Case:

If the decision had been mine to make ***at the time this case was decided***, I would:

_____ agree

_____ disagree

Because:

If the decision were mine to make ***today*** (not when the case was decided), I (personally) would:

_____ reach a similar result under similar facts

_____ reach a different result

Because:

Did the court use a rule to define false imprisonment? If so, what is the rule?

Did the court consider any defenses to the false imprisonment claim?

What was the outcome of this case?

Why did the court reach this conclusion?

*The full “Beginning Case-Reading Checklist” introduces you to a beginning checklist you can reproduce (copies available online at <http://www.unc.edu/~ramckinn>) and use for the next several weeks as you read cases. This beginning checklist is long – too long to use forever or on every case you are reading. However, as you learn to read law like an expert law student, you should use it on at least one case a day in each of your classes for the first two or three weeks of school.