

Letter to the State Appeals Court Instructions Modern Court Case Example

Directions: You have analyzed the Modern Court Case Example: State of Georgia v. Jamal Dubois. Now, it is your responsibility to determine whether the defendant deserves a re-trial based on claims of ineffective counsel. You will write a letter as a state appeal judge on the panel to express your position on this issue. Your letter should consist of five paragraphs and answer the question: **Should the defendant be granted an appeal for ineffective counsel?** Your writing should take the form of a letter addressed to the defendant, outlining the outcome of their future.

Requirements:

1. Your letter must include 5 paragraphs as described below.
2. Your letter should use persuasive language and should be written to the defendant.
3. Your letter should be written from the perspective of the Court of Appeals.
4. Your letter should be persuasive by building arguments supported by evidence.

Letter Format:

Paragraph 1:

What does it look like to have effective counsel? Why is it important to have effective counsel? Justify your answers with legal terms such as the 6th amendment and the Strickland test.

Paragraph 2 :

What is the case about? When and where does this take place? What crime(s) were committed? Did the defendant receive a court-appointed attorney, or did they hire a private attorney? Describe the trial. What was their verdict? What was the sentencing?

Paragraph 3:

Describe actions taken by the defense attorneys that would serve as evidence of effective counsel. Explain why these actions benefited their client.

Paragraph 4:

Describe actions taken by the defense attorneys that would serve as evidence of ineffective counsel. Explain why these actions harm their client.

Paragraph 5:

Should the defendant be granted an appeal for ineffective counsel? Justify your decision using evidence from the State of Georgia v. Jamal Dubois case, the effective counsel case analysis chart, the U.S. Constitution, and the Strickland test.