

ST. MARY'S UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF LAW
OFFICE OF ACADEMIC SUPPORT

Issue Spotting Tips

- Before you enter the exam, reduce your course outline to a one-page checklist.
- Memorize the checklist, so that you can refer to it as you analyze the exam problem.
- Read the call of the question *first* to give yourself a target to shoot at.
- Then skim the question once and identify the big general issues that leap out at you.
- Now, go back and read the question slowly, and find the sub-issues involved.
 - What are the elements of the main issue?
 - Are any of the elements absent from the fact pattern presented?
 - What issues do the facts in each sentence trigger?
 - Can these facts be used in a main or opposing argument?