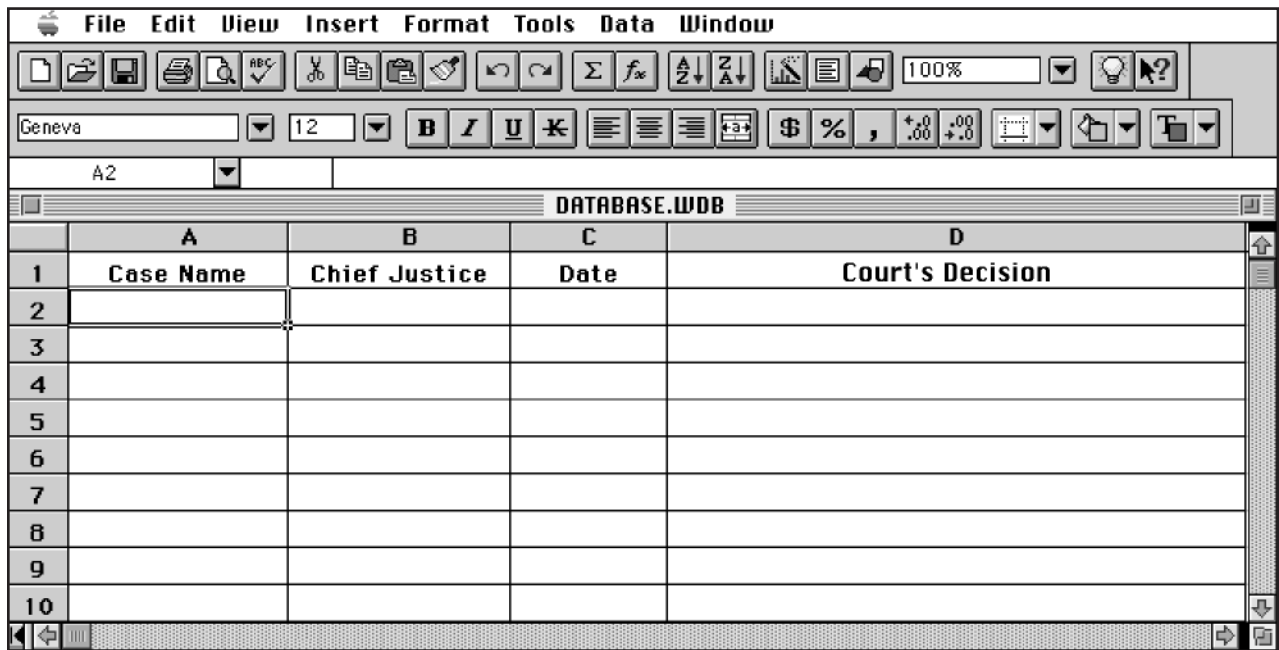


# Skill Reinforcement Activity

# Chapter 12

**Building a Database** There are a variety of database software programs available. Some allow more options than others in manipulating or presenting information, but most programs enable you to enter data in a form similar to the one below. First, you decide on the fields, or individual items of information, to include for each entry or record. Then you enter data one field at a time.

Research Supreme Court cases dealing with one of the following topics: freedom of speech and of the press, the rights of the accused, the rights of minority group members, powers of the states and federal government. Use the database worksheet to enter the information or create your database on a computer if you have access to a computer database program. Then answer the questions that follow.



- In a database, a *primary key* is the field that uniquely identifies each record. A primary key makes it easier to locate records and prevents duplicate records from being entered. What field should be the primary key in your database on Supreme Court cases? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Occasionally, the Supreme Court reverses itself on a previous decision. If you were building a database on Supreme Court decisions that reversed previous decisions, what fields would you include in your database? Explain. \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

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