

U.S. SUPREME COURT LANDMARK CASES

The cases listed below are landmark decisions reached by the United States Supreme Court. Each student will write a legal brief on an assigned case using the guidelines found below. These briefs are to be no more than two typed pages long. The cases are arranged by standard or general categories.

The design of the judicial branch protects the Court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice

-*Marbury v. Madison* (1803)

Federalism reflects the dynamic distribution of power between the national and state governments

-*McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)

-*United States v. Lopez* (1995)

Provisions of the Bill of Rights are continually being interpreted to balance the power of government and the civil liberties of individuals

-*Schenck v. United States* (1919)

-*West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943)*

-*Engel v. Vitale* (1962)

-*Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969)

-*Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969)*

-*New York Times Company v. United States* (1971)

-*Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972)

-*Miller v. California* (1973)*

The Due Process Clause of the 14th Amendment has been interpreted to prevent the states from infringing upon basic liberties

-*Gitlow v. New York* (1925)

-*Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)

-*Roe v. Wade* (1973)

-*McDonald v. Chicago* (2010)

The 14th Amendment's "equal protection clause" has often been used to support the advancement of equality

-*Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)

-*Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)

-*Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978)*

The impact of federal policies on campaigning and electoral rules continues to be contested by both sides of the political spectrum

-*Buckley v. Valeo* (1976)

-*Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (FEC)* (2010)

The republican ideal in the U.S. is manifested in the structure and operation of the legislative branch

-*Baker v. Carr* (1961)

-*Shaw v. Reno* (1993)

Brief Requirements

You will write a legal brief for your assigned case. As stated above the brief is to be no more than one typed page (10 or 12 type font, Times New Roman or Courier). The brief consists of:

Facts: What happened? What is the background of the case?

Issue: What is the constitutional conflict? Why is the case before the Supreme Court?

Decision: Who won? What was the vote count?

Reasoning: Why did the court rule the way that it did? Explain how the court came to its decision.

Impact of the Decision: How did this ruling impact our country and government?

Presentation Requirements

*You will design a visual presentation to present to the court about your case and an oral presentation where you will tell the class about your case.

*Your visual presentation will be a minimum of 7 pictures/images that tell the “story” of your case. Your visual presentation should **not** include any written explanation of the images.

*You should integrate your images into your oral presentation.

*Your case presentation should be approximately three minutes in length.

*Be sure you are familiar with and understand your case and can answer basic foundational questions about your case. If you aren't sure about something ask before you present.

Supreme Court Case Brief Rubric

Criteria	Points Available	Points Earned
Brief sufficiently and accurately covers the facts of the case	25	
Brief sufficiently and accurately covers the issue in the case	15	
Brief sufficiently and accurately reports the decision	10	
Brief sufficiently and accurately covers the reasoning	25	
Brief sufficiently and accurately covers the impact	25	
Powerpoint is accurate and professional	50	
Presentation is accurate and professional	50	
Late Penalty (DON'T BE LATE!)		
Total	200	