

Honors Government

Court Case Analysis

“Isn’t funny that anything the Supreme Court says is right?”

-Robert Frost (1874 - 1963)

The United States Supreme Court is often regarded as the supreme law of the land. It has handled everything in United States history from issues of race and gender, to matters of abortion and flag burning. As the highest court in our government’s judicial branch, it is the duty of the Supreme Court to determine constitutionality of the matters brought before it from presidents and common citizens alike. Your job is to determine the influence of one of their decisions on our lives.

Students will analyze a Supreme Court case that has had historic implications on American history, government, or society. Students will write a 2-3 page double-spaced, word-processed paper addressing the following:

- Reason the case was originally an issue of contention.
- Who the key figures in the case were.
- The immediate and long-term effects of the court’s decision on our society.

Students will give a brief (2-4 minute) presentation to the class and prepare a one-page fact sheet for each class listing pertinent information. During the presentation, students should display a visual helping to increase understanding of their topic. The visual may come in the form of a picture, web site, or other object that defines the case or its result.

Rubric

The paper is written according to requirements (page number, word-processed, spacing, font, margins). /10

There is a strong introduction that captivates the reader and introduces the topic. /10

There is a strong thesis statement regarding the impact of the chosen case. /10

There is a strong body of detail describing the circumstances, individuals, result, and effects of the case. /25

There is a conclusion that gives the reader closures and restates the importance of the topic. /10

The paper is free from spelling, structural, and grammatical errors. /10

The presentation is informative, entertaining, meets general time requirements, and a visual is included to help better understanding of the topic. The speaker’s voice and body language are strong. /25

My topic is _____ Paper due date _____ Presentation date _____

Honors Government

Historical Document Analysis

“Words are a form of action, capable of influencing change”
-Ingrid Bengis

Many collections of words and ideas have helped create the society in which we live. Some documents determine our freedoms, while others have caused limitations. Some documents defined a generation, while others have ended war. Your job is to find a document that you would like to learn more about and determine the influence of one of them on our lives.

Students will analyze an historic document that has had major implications on American history, government, or society. Students will write a 2-3 page double-spaced, word-processed paper addressing the following:

- Circumstances around which the document was needed and created.
- Who the key figures in creating the document were.
- The immediate and long-term effects of the documents on our society.

Students will give a brief (2-4 minute) presentation to the class and prepare a one-page fact sheet for each class listing pertinent information. During the presentation, students should display a visual helping to increase understanding of their topic. The visual may come in the form of a picture, web site, or other object that defines the case or its result. **Students should also include a complete copy of the document with their paper.**

Rubric

The paper is written according to requirements (page number, word-processed, spacing, font, margins).	/10
There is a strong introduction that captivates the reader and introduces the topic.	/10
There is a strong thesis statement regarding the impact of the chosen document.	/10
There is a strong body of detail describing the circumstances, individuals, result, and effects of the document.	/25
There is a conclusion that gives the reader closures and restates the importance of the topic.	/10
The paper is free from spelling, structural, and grammatical errors.	/10
The presentation is informative, entertaining, meets general time requirements, and a visual is included to help better understanding of the topic. The speaker's voice and body language are strong.	/25

My topic is _____ Paper due date _____ Presentation date _____

Topics

Historical Documents	Court Cases
Declaration of Independence	<i>Dred Scot v. Sanford</i>
Articles of Confederation	<i>Marbury v. Madison</i>
Treaty of Alliance	<i>Plessy v. Ferguson</i>
Treat of Paris	<i>Brown v. Topeka, Kansas Board of Education</i>
Virginia Plan	<i>Gideon v. Waiwright</i>
Northwest Ordinance	<i>Roe v. Wade</i>
U.S. Constitution	<i>University of California v. Bakke</i>
Federalist Paper 10	<i>Bob Jones University v. United States</i>
Federalist Paper 51	<i>Cruzan v. Missouri</i>
Bill of Rights	<i>Furman v. Georgia</i>
George Washington's Farewell Address	<i>Gregg v. Georgia</i>
Alien and Sedition Acts	<i>Korematsu v. United States</i>
Treaty of Ghent	<i>Lemon v. Kurtzman</i>
Missouri Compromise	<i>Powell v. Alabama</i>
Monroe Doctrine	<i>Reno v. Condon</i>
President Jackson's Message to Congress on Indian Removal (1830)	<i>Miranda v. Arizona</i>
Treaty of Guadalupe Hidalgo	<i>Escobedo v. Illinois</i>
Emancipation Proclamation	<i>Engel v. Vitale</i>
Gettysburg Address	<i>Mapp v. Ohio</i>
Chinese Exclusionary Act	<i>Tinker v. Des Moines School District</i>
Dawes Act	<i>United States v. Eichman</i>
Sherman Anti-Trust Act	
Zimmerman Telegram	
Executive Order 9066	
Golf of Tonkin Resolution	
Magna Carta	
Mayflower Compact	
English Bill of Rights	
Locke's <i>Two Treatises of Government</i>	
Rousseau's <i>Social Contract</i>	