

Supreme Court Case Analysis for AP Govt. Class

Created By: Sara Crider with support of Micahel Campbell

Subject / Lesson: A.P. Government and Politics

Grade Level: 11th & 12th grade(s)

Overview/Description: Students will research one of the 15 important Supreme Court cases, present their case, fill out a graphic organizer during student presentations, and take a formative assessment on the cases presented.

Duration: 4 class days – 90 minutes each

Day 1 – Review Rubric for presentation, outline format for presentation and allowable resources for research, form groups, assign case, and begin researching case.

Day 2 – Review rubric and students prepare presentations

Day 3 – Present case presentations and students fill out chart and if time allows review cases

Day 4 – Formative Assessment and move on with federal courts/judicial branch unit

Standards:

USG.2.ER

Explain the authority, organization, purposes, and responsibilities of the three branches of government as enumerated in Articles I–III in the Constitution.

This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into the formal and informal structure, roles, and operations of the legislative, executive, and judicial branches of the national government, including the specific powers of each branch. Additionally, this indicator promotes inquiry into the extent to which the three branches are interdependent.

USG.2.IP

Synthesize why the rule of law has a central place in American society and the impact it has on the American political system.

This indicator was developed to encourage inquiry into how the U.S. Constitution shapes the actions of governments and politics, draws its authority from the people, and defines the extent and limits of government power and the rights of citizens. This indicator also promotes inquiry into the reasons particular laws have been passed and the

role of the federal and state judiciary system to resolve arising controversies.

2.B Explain how a required Supreme Court case relates to a foundational document or to other primary or secondary sources.

2.C Compare the reasoning, decision, and majority opinion of a required Supreme Court case to a non-required Supreme Court case.

Objectives: The objective of this lesson is for students to research, analyze, present, and learn about the 15 important Supreme Court cases in order to be prepared for the AP Government and Politics exam.

Materials and Resources:

- Cases: McCullough v. Maryland (1819), US v. Lopez (1995), Engel v. Vitale (1962), Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972), Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969), New York Times Co. v. United States (1971), Schenck v. US (1919), Gideon v. Wainwright (1963), Roe v. Wade (1973), McDonald v. Chicago (2010), Brown v. Board of Education (1954), Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010), Baker v. Carr (1962), Shaw v. Reno (1993), Marbury v. Madison (1803)
- Student Chromebooks/laptops
- Access to Internet sites (see links below)
- Google Slides template provided in Google Classroom/Attached as Powerpoint Document
- Presentation Rubric (see link and worksheet below)
- Smart board for presentations
- Supreme Court cases chart (see link under activities and worksheets below)

Procedures:

1. Review rubric and expectations for presentation.
2. Review resources students may use to gather information.
3. Review format to present information.
4. Student's form group.
5. Assign case to each group. (could be randomly assigned or teacher assigned based on students' needs)
6. Students research case & create presentation
7. Students practice delivering presentation
8. Students present case information & other students fill in chart (collected for a grade)
9. Use Quizlet or match game cards to review cases learned through presentations
10. Take formative assessment about cases

Activities:

- [Chart students complete during presentation](#)

Links with Background Information:

- [15 Important Supreme Court Cases Summarized](#)
- <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9277>

Assessments/Evaluation:

- [Rubric for Supreme Court Presentation](#)
- [Google Slides Template](#)

Suggestion for Review or Closure:

- Supreme Court match game:
<https://drive.google.com/file/d/1DGuiM2DxVehbYcprOYmxHiN2CppMhb32/view>
- Use this Quizlet to review 15 important Supreme Court Cases:
https://quizlet.com/_6syx5p

Extension Activities:

- <https://www.c-span.org/classroom/document/?9277>