

Project: Analyzing a Supreme Court Case

Note: This is an individual Project. Each student must complete a different Supreme Court case. Projects are due to be presented on the date agreed upon by Mrs. Flemming and student. Projects not presented on the agreed date will receive a failing grade. Students who are absent on the written due date must still submit all materials on the agreed date (**November 11th**). If absent on agreed upon presentation date, presentation must take place the next class in which the student is present with proof that absence was excused (i.e. a doctor's note). If absence is unexcused student will receive a failing grade. Each student must obtain approval and get Mrs. Flemming's signature for their case.

Case name: _____ **Student:** _____
Approval: _____ **Presentation date:** _____

Objectives:

Students will be able to research, write and present a Landmark Supreme Court Case.
Students will be able to assemble and clearly communicate a logical presentation using computer technology.

1. Research/Writing portion:

- **DUE NOVEMBER 11TH, 2015**
- Analysis of Supreme Court Case
- Written part must be type
 - 12 point *Times New Roman* font
 - using black ink
 - 1 inch Margins
 - **Project must be presented in a bradded folder.**
- **Cover and First Page** of your project is the title page (See Below).
- **Second page** of your project is the grading rubric page (last page of this packet).
- **Third page** you turn in the project sheet (this sheet).
- **Fourth page** of your project is a table of contents
- **Content pages** should be in the consecutive order listed below.
- **Last page** of your project is a works cited or bibliography page. All sources used in your research, writing, graphic and/or presentation must be listed.

Originality:

- All parts of your project must be original with you. If a student copies any part of another student's research, writing, graphic or presentation, both students will receive a failing grade for his/her project.
- If a student copies any part of their research, writing, graphic or presentation from any source (books, internet web sites, etc.) and fails to give credit to that source in their works cited or bibliography page that student will receive a failing grade for his/her project.

Project Contents:

Typed on the **front of the bradded folder and the First Page**, single spaced, include the following:

Supreme Court Case name
Your Name
United States Government
Mrs. Flemming
Fall 2015
November 11th, 2015

Content pages:

- Each of the following content items must have an adequate written response.
- Each of the following must have its own page.
- All pages should be numbered and referenced on the Table of Contents page
- Items should be in your folder in the order listed

1. Case Name**2. Facts of the case**

- summarize the story behind the case...you are telling a story – COMPLETE SENTENCES
- what events/court cases lead up to this case

3. Lower court verdict:

- What court or courts heard this case before the U.S. Supreme Court
- name each court and verdict

4. Petition before the Supreme Court:

- What were the arguments for the plaintiff? (minimum of 3 arguments)
- What were the arguments for the defendant? (minimum of 3 arguments)

5. Relief sought:

- What the plaintiff really wants is...in plain English what does the plaintiff desire?

6. Majority decision of the Court...what was the decision?

- What was the Supreme Court vote in the majority? What date for the majority decision?
- Which justices voted for the majority?
- Who wrote the majority decision?
- Describe the majority opinion...
- Were there any concurrent opinions written? by whom?
- How are the concurrent opinions different from the majority opinion?

7. Dissenting opinion(s):

- What was the Supreme Court vote in the dissent?

8. Which justice wrote the opinion for the dissent?

- Describe the dissenting opinion...
- Were there any concurrent opinions written by whom?
- How are the concurrent opinions different from the dissenting opinion?

9. Importance/significance of this case:

- Did this case change/add to/take from the Constitution or any of the Amendments? If so, how?
- Explain fully.

10. Does this case remain relevant or has it been superseded by another case?

- If it has been superseded, name the case and tell how your case changed the preceding case?

2. Visual:

- » Project must have a physical visual or graphic that will contribute to your presentation. Something like a describing the history of the case with photos and a timeline would be appropriate. Be creative, make your graphic professional looking. No videotapes or audiotapes of Supreme Court cases are allowed.

3. Presentation:

- » In the PP presentation of your case the student must convince Mrs. Flemming that the student is knowledgeable of their case. Is your information correct? (Do you know what you are talking about?)
- » Presentation time: minimum 8 minutes and a maximum of 10 minutes. Student will lose points if your presentation is less than 8 minutes. If your presentation extends to 10+ minutes Mrs. Flemming and the class will begin to applaud and thank you for your presentation. At that point your presentation is finished. **You will be timed in class therefore, practice your presentation at home until it falls within the prescribed time limitations. Be prepared!**
- » **Remember:** You are preparing to tell the story of your case. You are informing your classmates about a Supreme Court Case and they probably know very little about your case.
- » **DRESS:** Students should be dressed appropriately for this presentation. Appropriate means "Church clothes" or "business like" clothing (male = shirt and tie; female = dress or skirt and blouse; or professional looking pants suit), denim is unacceptable (no jeans or jeans skirts). Imagine that you are making a presentation before a judge and jury and explaining why this case is significant. You cannot earn a grade of "A" if you do not dress appropriately.

Off limits: There are cases that are off limits to students and may not be used and will not be graded. If a student persists and attempts to do one of the following they will not be allowed to present and will receive a failing grade for this project. Cases off limits are: *New Jersey v T.L.O.*, *People v. Larry Flint*. Make certain you gain approval for your case from Mrs. Flemming.

Daily Grades:

- There will be two checkpoints (two daily grades) along the way each resulting in a daily grade. At these checkpoints students should be able to show Ms. Flemming their progress on the assignment and answer pertinent questions about their chosen case.
- The finally daily Grade for this project will be an outline of what you did each research day using the outline attached

Final note: Once your presentation is complete all materials must be turned in to Mrs. Flemming. None of these materials will be returned to the student. All case materials become the property of Mrs. Flemming.

Calendar:

Monday	Tuesday	Wednesday	Thursday	Friday
Oct 26 Finish Unit 3	Oct 27 Finish Unit 3	Oct 28 Intro Judicial Branch	Oct 29 Intro - iPads	Oct 30 Research - iPads
Nov 2 Research - iPads	Nov 3 Research - iPads	Nov 4 Research - C218	Nov 5 Research - C218	Nov 6 Research - C218
Nov 9 Research - C218	Nov 10 Research - C218	Nov 11 <i>Written Due</i> Work Day	Nov 12 Presentations	Nov 13 Presentations
Nov 16 Presentations	Nov 17 Presentations	Nov 18 Presentations	Nov 19 Presentations	Nov 20 Presentations

Project Planner

Name: _____ Case: _____

You will be required to complete this each day. It will be reviewed for your two checkpoints and will also be turned in at the end of class for a daily grade.

Thur – 10/29	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Fri – 10/30	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Mon – 11/2	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Tues – 11/3	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Wed – 11/4	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Thurs – 11/5	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Fri – 11/6	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Mon – 11/9	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:
Tues – 11/10	What I did today:	What I'll do tomorrow:

Grading Rubric for Analyzing Supreme Court Cases

Every project will be graded using this rubric. In order for the student to receive a grade this rubric page must be turned in as the first page of the written part of your presentation.

Student name: _____ **Date:** _____

Project: Supreme Court Cases **Teacher:** Mrs. Flemming **Class:** Honors U.S. Government

Three Part Project: 1) Research/Writing 2) Visual 3) Tech Presentation

Organization skills	Below Avg.	Satisfactory	Excellent
1. On time (turned in on due date)	N/A	N/A	10
Notebook arranged correctly	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Research/Writing skills			
2. Format (correct heading, font, etc.)	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
3. Each part completed correctly (10 parts)			
Case name	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Facts of the case	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Lower court verdict	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Arguments for plaintiff	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Arguments for defendant	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Relief sought	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Majority decision	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Dissenting opinion (s)	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Importance/significance of the case	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Does this case remain relevant?	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
4. Demonstrates ORIGINAL research	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
5. Good grammar and spelling	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Graphic skills			
6. Graphic demonstrates knowledge of case	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
7. Graphic demonstrates thought and creativity	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
Presentation skills			
8. Presented w/in time limit: ()	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
9. Participant was dressed appropriately	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
10. Well-presented project (good story, etc.)	2 3 4	5 6 7	8 9 10
TOTAL			

Project is worth: 200 points. **Total Score:** _____ / 2 = Test grade _____

Teacher comments
