

The Supreme Court

An Introduction with a Historical Perspective

The objective of this theme is to have students become familiar with the Supreme Court, how it works and how it is relevant to society in general. This theme is meant to be a factual study of the Court, its cases, and their impact on everyday lives of Americans.

Subtopics

Historical Perspective:

- A. *How the Court became part of our government, the Constitutional directive, the premise of the three branches of government*
- B. *Court Customs, number of judges, appointment process, calendar, choice of cases, brief explanation of the appellate system*
- C. *Changes over the years, the many firsts in terms of personnel*

The Justices:

- A. *Chief Justices, who appointed them, any controversies surrounding the appointment, how many years of service, important rulings or influences*
- B. *Associate Justices, limited to the following:
Brandeis, O'Connor, Holmes, Sotomeyer, Ginsberg, Paterson, Chase, Black and Story*
Students will be expected to know the same information about the justices as they have to know about the Chief Justices. This category is not meant to be modeled after Presidents. There will not be questions about biographical information.

The Cases

All students should know the following:

- A. *The opposing viewpoints*
- B. *The Constitutional connection*
- C. *Who wrote the majority opinion*
- D. *The reasoning stated for the opinion*
- E. *The ramifications of the opinion on society*
- F. *If the ruling has withstood the test of time or been reversed*
Jr/Sr should also know the same facts about the dissenting opinions on its eight cases

Elementary

Marbury vs Madison
Unied States vs Nixon
Dred Scott vs Sanford
Plessy vs Ferguson
Brown vs Board of Education
Baker vs Carr
Charles River Bridge vs Warren
Bridge
Hylton vs United States
Polluck vs Farmers Loan and Trust
Bradwell vs Illinois

Middle plus the Elementary cases

McCulloch vs Maryland
Gibbons vs Ogden
NY Times vs United States
Gideon vs Wainwright
Miranda vs Arizona
Bush vs Gore
Clinton vs Jones
Terry vs Adams
Furman vs Georgia
Ring vs Arizona

Jr/Sr plus the Elementary, Middle cases and the dissenting opinion on the cases below

Roe vs Wade
NY Times vs United States
Dred Scott vs Sanford
Plessy vs Ferguson
Lochner vs New York
Korematsu vs United States
Bush vs Gore
Atkins vs Virginia