

TIP #3 Outline: Research Question Suggestions

7th Grade Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Title - Name of Case: _____ Year: _____

Essential Question: _____

I. Introduction

- A. **Hook:** What is an interesting fact about the case that will hook the reader?
- B. **Essential Question:** What is the essential question of this case that was posed to the Supreme Court?

II. Body

A. Social Setting/Related Historical Events:

Describe the historical events that were taking place in the United States during the decade/years prior to the ruling in this Court case. Explain the social setting and events in the United States during this time period that lead to this court case, (ex. Wars, civil rights movements, etc.)

B. The 5 W's and H of the Case:

Use the information found while researching about the events that led up to the case itself to write a detailed summary about the background facts and story behind the events and people related to this case.

You may want to organize it using the 5 W's and H:

1. **Who** was involved in the case? (**The Litigants** – see glossary of terms below)
 - a. **Litigant “A”:** Write a brief description about him/her/them
 - b. **Litigant “B”:** Write a brief description about him/her/them
 2. **Where** did events related to the case occur?
 3. **What happened** in the events that led to the case?
 4. **What type of case** is it? (A **Civil case** or a **Criminal case**)
(see glossary of terms below)
 5. **When** did events related to the case occur?
 6. **Why did the events lead to a trial?**
 7. **Why was the case appealed** all the way to the Supreme Court?
- C. **The Arguments:** What were the arguments that were presented in the case?
1. **Litigant “A”:** Argument/Claim
 2. **Litigant “B”:** Argument/Counter Claim
- D. **Related Constitutional Principles:**
1. What is (are) the constitutional principle(s) or legal provision(s) related to the case? List the principle(s)
 2. Summarize the meaning of each.
- E. **The Supreme Court's Decision:** What was the U.S. Supreme Court's decision? In other words, how did the U.S. Supreme Court answer the essential question?
- F. **The Majority Opinion:** (see glossary of terms below)
1. What was the majority opinion?
 2. What evidence did they use to support their judicial opinion?
 3. What was the reason for their decision?
 4. If there were **Concurring Opinions**, (see glossary of terms below) what were they?

G. The Dissenting Opinion: (see glossary of terms below)

1. What was the dissenting opinion?
2. What evidence did they use to support their judicial opinion?
3. What was the reason for their decision?
4. **Unanimous Opinion:** If there was not a Dissenting opinion, then was it a Unanimous Opinion? (see glossary of terms below)

H. The Press:

1. **Reporting/News:** How did the Press report on the ruling in the case?
2. **Visuals:** Were there any related political cartoons / pictures published in the Press?

I. What happened to the litigants after the Supreme Court ruled on the case?

III. Conclusion:

- A. **Impact on Society:** What was the impact of this case on society? In other words, how has the decision in this case affected or changed society and/or the way that our government works?
- B. **Impact on your life:** How has the decision in this case affected you and/or someone you know? Or, How could the decision impact you in the future?

Glossary of terms:

What are the related vocabulary words/concepts? Create a glossary of related vocabulary words/concepts and summarize their meanings. Briefly explain how they apply to the case. This glossary must include the following words from Chapter 9 of the Civics

Textbook/Workbook:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-----------------------------|
| a. Criminal Case (9-1) | l. Judicial Review (9-3) |
| b. Civil Case (9-1) | m. Constitutional (9-3) |
| c. Dual Court System (9-1) | n. Nullify (9-3) |
| d. Jurisdiction (9-1) | o. Writ of Certiorari (9-4) |
| e. Original Jurisdiction (9-2) | p. Brief (9-4) |
| f. Appellate Jurisdiction (9-2) | q. Majority Opinion (9-4) |
| g. Ruling (9-2) | r. Concurring Opinion (9-4) |
| h. Opinion (9-2) | s. Dissenting Opinion (9-4) |
| i. Precedent (9-2) | t. Unanimous Opinion (9-4) |
| j. Litigant (9-2) | u. Stare Decisis (9-4) |
| k. Subpoena (9-2) | |

Online Research Resources: DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA!!!

Please note that information about all cases will not be found at all of these websites and that there are other resources that may be used, EXCEPT WIKIPEDIA!!!

- www.millenniumrocketscivics.weebly.com: Projects, Third Quarter TIP, Resources
- Billofrightsinstitute.org:
 - Educate for teachers, Free lesson plans, Presidents and the Constitution & Landmark Supreme Court Cases.
- <http://www.streetlaw.org/en/landmark/home>
- <http://www.uscourts.gov>: Facts and Case summary, Supreme Court Landmarks
- <http://www.Oyez.org>
- <http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt>
- <http://www.icivics.com>
- List of other resources that you find: _____