

SUPREME COURT CASE ESSAY ASSIGNMENT

Directions: The student will choose 5 Supreme Court cases to research and then write an essay about each of the five cases (i.e. five separate essays). Each essay will summarize the case and explain why it is significant. Students may choose any U.S. Supreme Court case from 1791 to the Present. **No plagiarized work will be accepted.**

To view detailed directions for this assignment, go to the [Supreme Court Case instructions page](#) and view the “Supreme Court Case Essay Directions” video.

All 5 essays must be completed according to the following requirements:

- The essay must be typed, double-spaced, Times New Roman, font size 12, 250 word minimum.
- Sources (at least 3) must be properly cited at the end of the essay.
- The student will describe the case in a **5 paragraph essay** which includes answers to the research questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why and How (see below for details).
 - **Introductory Paragraph:** Briefly describe the name of the case, when it was heard, identify the parties involved, and briefly introduce the controversy or focus of the case.
 - **Main Body (3 paragraphs)**
 - **1st Paragraph** - Explain the details of the controversy/question in the case.
 - **2nd Paragraph** - Explain the history of the case: Where did the case begin; what court had original jurisdiction, and how did it move through the court system? When did the case originally begin, and when did the Supreme Court make its decision?
 - **3rd Paragraph** – What was the Supreme Court’s decision in the case? What was the majority’s opinion, and what was the minority’s opinion?
 - **Concluding Paragraph:** Briefly restate the case and the court’s decision. Then, answer the following question: How does the Supreme Court’s ruling in this case affect Americans today?

The student may research any U.S. Supreme Court case. Some suggested cases include (but are not limited to): *Marbury v. Madison*, *McCulloch v. Maryland*, *Gibbons v. Ogden*, *Dred Scott v. Sanford*, *Plessy v. Ferguson*, *Gideon v. Wainwright*, *Miranda v. Arizona*, *Roe v. Wade*, *Mack v. U.S.*

Supreme Court Case Essay Grading Rubric

CATEGORY	10-9	8-7	6-5	4-0
RESEARCH The essay answers the research questions: Who, What, Where, When, Why and How?	The case is well researched as evidenced by the student's clear answers to the research questions demonstrating a clear understanding of the details in the case.	The case is researched and the student summarizes the research questions demonstrating a basic understanding of the case.	The case is somewhat researched and the student answers the research questions demonstrating a minimal understanding of the case.	The case does not appear to be well researched and the student has not answered all of the research questions. Student does not demonstrate understanding of the case.
FORMAT Typed, 250 word minimum, double-spaced, font size 12, Times New Roman	All five formatting requirements have been met.	Four out of five formatting requirements have been met.	Three out of five formatting requirements have been met.	Less than three formatting requirements have been met.
MECHANICS	No grammatical, spelling or punctuation errors.	Almost no grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. (1-3 errors)	Several grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. (4-6 errors)	Many grammatical, spelling, or punctuation errors. (More than 6 errors)
SOURCES At least 3 sources must be cited by the student.	All sources used are included and properly cited at the end of the essay.	All sources used are cited, but not all are cited correctly.	Some sources are cited. Not all sources used are cited correctly.	Several, or all, sources are not cited.
CONTENT PRESENTATION Five Paragraph Essay includes: Introduction, Main Body (3 paragraphs including details of the controversy, the history of the case, the court's decision including the majority and minority opinion), and Conclusion	Student writes a 5 paragraph essay including an Introductory Paragraph, Main Body (details of the controversy, history of the case, the court's decision), and Conclusion.	Student writes a 5 paragraph essay including an Introductory Paragraph, Main Body, and Conclusion, but fails to complete one of the details in one of the paragraphs as described on the requirement sheet.	Student writes a 5 paragraph essay including an Introductory Paragraph, Main Body, and Conclusion, but fails to complete two or three of the details in one of the paragraphs as described on the requirement sheet.	Student writes a 5 paragraph essay including an Introductory Paragraph, Main Body, and Conclusion, but fails to complete four or more of the details in one of the paragraphs as described on the requirement sheet.

* No plagiarized work will be accepted. *

Total Score: _____ / 50 Total Possible Points
Grade: _____ %