

Name:  
Core:

Activity 6: Famous/Landmark Court Cases

**1. Watch the video hyperlinked under the picture on activity 6 to learn about how you read a case brief.**

**2. Use the hyperlinks on our class website or a different legitimate site of your choosing. In the past I have found these sites to be of great help – but as always websites can change by the moment. No Wikipedia!!!**

- a. Oyez.org**
- b. U of Chicago law school**
- c. casebriefs.com**
- d. landmarkcases.org**
- e. uscourts.gov**
- f. caselaw.findlaw.com**
- g. pbs.org**

**3. Working together as a collaborative group, go through the following court cases together. Read them and then discuss the case before you even write a single word.**

- a. Plessy v. Ferguson**
- b. Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas**
- c. Miranda v. Arizona**
- d. Tinker v. Des Moines School Board**
- e. Hernandez v. Texas**

**4. Each member of the group should be assigned 1 case that you will be in charge of leading the reading, discussion, questions and answers for that round. While all students are expected to help in each portion of the activity, you are the project manager for that case and will be responsible for the group focus.**

**5. This activity will take you two classes to complete, please do not do multiple cases at the same time and then share the answers, each case should have all members working equally at the same time on the same case.**

**6. You must use evidence from the case not just personal opinion when you answer the questions.**

**Plessy v. Ferguson:**

1. What year did this court case occur?
2. Who is the plaintiff?
3. Who is the Defendant?
4. Summarize the events that led to this court case:
5. Summarize the outcome of the trial:
6. Do you think the case speaks more to the political motives of ex-confederates forced to rejoin the Union, or to the general attitude of racism in America during that time period, or is it a little of both or neither? Please defend your answer (look up the actual case brief and use information from that to defend your answer).
7. In the end, how many justices voted for and against the case:

**Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka Kansas:**

1. What year did this court case occur?
2. Who is the plaintiff?
3. Who is the Defendant?
4. Summarize the events that led to this court case:
5. Summarize the outcome of the trial:
6. Explain how the Fourteenth Amendment was used to argue this case, what role do you think politics and racism played in this case from both the plaintiff and the Supreme Court?
7. In the end, how many justices voted for and against the case:

## **Miranda v. Arizona**

1. What year did this court case occur?
2. Who is the plaintiff?
3. Who is the Defendant?
4. Summarize the events that led to this court case:
5. Summarize the outcome of the trial:
6. Based on evidence from the case (I strongly urge you to review [http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/rights/landmark\\_miranda.html](http://www.pbs.org/wnet/supremecourt/rights/landmark_miranda.html)) does your GROUP believe that a potential suspect in a crime has to know all of their rights before being arrested or does your group believe there are times that police need to detain a suspect without reading their rights? (There is no right or wrong answer here as long as you defend your answer with details from the Miranda case, use the website and work together).
7. In the end, how many justices voted for and against the case:

### **Tinker v. Des Moines School Board:**

1. What year did this court case occur?
2. Who is the plaintiff?
3. Who is the Defendant?
4. Summarize the events that led to this court case:
5. Summarize the outcome of the trial:
6. Based on the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment of the Constitution, do American citizens have the right to peacefully protest (I encourage you to reread the 1<sup>st</sup> Amendment in its entirety), think about things such as age, place, purpose, etc... Does your group believe that Tinker should or should not have been sent home over the armband? Please use evidence not just personal opinion, again look closely at the details of the case before passing judgement either way
7. In the end, how many justices voted for and against the case:

**Hernandez v. Texas:**

1. What year did this court case occur?
2. Who is the plaintiff?
3. Who is the Defendant?
4. Summarize the events that led to this court case:
5. Summarize the outcome of the trial:
6. Is it a denial of the Fourteenth Amendment's equal protection clause to try a defendant of a particular race or ethnicity before a jury where all persons of his race or ancestry have, because of that race or ethnicity, Constitutional (legal) or not and why?
7. In the end, how many justices voted for and against the case: