

Supreme Court Case Post

Due November 6

Objective

By Friday, November 6, students are required to post a short case summary (1,200 words or less) of a major historic Supreme Court opinion issued between 1835 and 1986. These posts should be designed to help teachers and students who want to learn more about pivotal cases. They should include an array of links to supporting (and freely available) resources –especially primary sources such as the opinions of the court or news coverage of the case. All good summaries will abstract the case, explain its significance, and provide some key contextual details, such as information about justices of the court, attorneys, and (most important) the litigants themselves. Each summary should also provide a concise guide to further reading, which would help users assess the best secondary source material available for the subject.

Assignment Details

- Each post should include at least one properly credited image, multiple links to useful sources, short annotations for leading secondary sources, and several hundred words of well-written original text that help convey the significance and drama of the landmark case.
- Students should find focus their search for cases at the [Landmarks Cases page](#) on the course website. Students may choose to write about cases that already have published entries.
- Posts may include Chicago-style footnotes (using brackets) where necessary, but students can also dispense with formal citations if they are unnecessary. Plagiarism rules do apply, however. All students should feel free to use direct hypertext links, PDF attachments and embedded media to provide easy access to certain sources (especially primary sources) for readers.
- Students should NOT link to sources behind pay walls or within subscription databases. Please note that this is a change from previous models in this course.

Grading Criteria

- Research effort–Does the post identify a range of primary and secondary sources?
- Historical analysis –Does the post demonstrate a concise analytical framework?
- Prose –Does the post succeed in presenting information in an engaging manner?

Privacy Reminders

- Please work in PRIVATE in Wordpress or in DRAFT –but do not post PUBLIC until Prof. Pinsker has reviewed your material