**Overview**

For the next seven weeks you will be working on a formal historical research paper looking into some of the most influential and impactful Supreme Court decisions during the 20th and 21st centuries. You will be given library time to do research but you are also expected to do much of the research on your own time.

**Format**

**I. Introduction Paragraph (less than a page)**

Your introduction should have two parts: (1) A *very* general introduction to the topic you will be discussing and (2) your thesis statement. Make your general introduction sentences as engaging as you can. Through them, you can hook your reader and get them interested in the line of thinking you are going to develop in your paper. Your thesis statement should focus on the impact and significance of your Supreme Court case.

**II. Background (1-2 pages)**

Here your paper should start to become more specific.

1. Give a broad overview of the time period your Supreme Court Case was decided in. For example, if your case takes place in the 1920s you should talk about the general “feel” of the time period (tradition vs. modernism) as well as any significant events that took place during the era (Red Scare, prohibition, Harding’s presidency, flappers, etc.).
2. You should give a basic summary of the facts of your case. Who was involved? What happened? Where did it happen? Why did it make it all the way to the Supreme Court? And broadly, how did the Justices rule and what did that ruling mean? If necessary, make sure you give definitions for/explain any relevant sections of the Constitution, Amendments, or legal terminology as they come up.

**III. Court opinion (less than a page)**

Summarize the opinions of the court, both the majority and minority opinions. If your case was decided unanimously, for example all nine of the Justices voted in favor so there is no minority opinion, you do not have to give a summary of the other side.

**IV. Impact (3-4 pages)**

This is the most important section of your paper. What was the overall impact of the decision the Justices reached? Make sure you address both short term and long term impacts. Was your case overturned by any later court cases? Why did that happen? If your case is less than ten years old (decided after 2005) you might not know the potential long term effects, but somewhere a reputable source has discussed these. Bring those sources into your paper.

**V. Your Opinion (1 page)**

WITHOUT USING “I” STATEMENTS – do you believe the Justices made the right decision? Why or why not? Support with evidence.

**VI. Conclusion (less than a page)**

Your conclusion should provide a summary of everything already said in your paper – no new information!

**Details**

* This assignment requires you to write at the high level expected of an honors class. You need to think about this paper NOT in numbers of paragraphs, quotes, and sources. Instead think about what questions you need to answer, how to break up your information in a logical sequence that flows, and to find reputable sources that help your argument. There is no required number or required types (books, databases, websites, etc.) of sources but generally you should try to bring together, synthesize, and analyze many different sources to make a strong argument.
* All of your information needs to be properly cited following MLA parenthetical citations. If you have a quote it needs a citation, if you have paraphrased something, it needs a citation. When in doubt – cite!
* All of your sources need to be listed on a Works Cited page in MLA format.
* Your paper should be written in Times New Roman, 12pt font, 1 inch margins, with last name and page number in the upper right hand corner of every page, except your cover page. It needs to be stapled when you bring your final draft to class.
* You need to have an MLA cover page that looks like this:

|  |
| --- |
| Westford Academy  Title  Name  US History II – A Block  Ms. Winokur  Paper Due Date |

**Due Dates**

Your research paper is due **FRIDAY, MARCH 13, 2015**. You will have one other formal check-in on Thursday, March 5, 2015, about a week before your final paper is due. At this check-in you need to have a draft ready to participate in a Writers Workshop with your classmates. More details about this will come later. Though this will be the only formal check-in during class time, you are always welcome to bring me drafts or notes to look at and go over with you. You will be required to submit your paper to TurnItIn.

**Plagiarism**

Plagiarism is taking someone else's words or ideas and presenting them as your own. Just like copying someone else's homework and turning it in is plagiarism, so is copying a sentence or paragraph that someone else wrote and sticking it in your paper. As is taking someone else’s ideas and not giving them the proper credit.

**Don’t do it!**

**Race, Sexuality & Civil Rights**

1. *United States vs. Windsor* (2013)
2. *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954)
3. *Loving v. Virginia* (1967)
4. *Lawrence v. Texas* (2003)
5. *Kaztzenbach v. McClung* (1964)
6. *Hurley v. Irish-American Gay, Lesbian, and Bisexual Group of Boston* (1995)
7. *Smith vs. Allwright* (1944)
8. *One, Inc. v. Olesen* (1958)
9. *Cooper v. Aaron* (1958)
10. *Regents of the University of California v. Bakke* (1978)

**Money, Taxes, and Labor**

1. *National Federation of Independent Business v. Sebelius* (2012)
2. *Muller v. Oregon* (1908)
3. *West Coast Hotel Co. v Parrish* (1937)
4. *Steward Machine Co. v. Davis* (1937)
5. *United States v. Paramount Pictures, Inc.* (1948)

**Criminal Proceedings & Punishments**

1. *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966)
2. *Gideon v. Wainwright* (1963)
3. *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961)
4. *Rasul v. Bush* (2004)
5. *Hamdi v. Rumsfeld* (2004)
6. *Boumediene v. Bush* (2008)
7. *Gregg v. Georgia* (1976)
8. *Arizona v. United States* (2012)

**Freedom of Speech, Press, Religion, Assembly**

1. *Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission* (2010)
2. *New York Times v. Sullivan* (1964)
3. *Holder v. Humanitarian Law Project* (2010)
4. *Abrams v. United States* (1919)
5. *Burwell v. Hobby Lobby Stores, Inc.* (2014)
6. *Joseph Burstyn, Inc. v. Wilson* (1952)
7. *United States v. O’Brien* (1968)
8. *Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District* (1969)
9. *Brandenburg v. Ohio* (1969)
10. *Texas v. Johnson* (1989)
11. *Wisconsin v. Yoder* (1972)
12. *Kitzmiller v. Dover Area School District* (2005)
13. *Stromberg v. California (1931)*
14. *West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette* (1943)
15. *Everson v. Board of Education* (1947)
16. *McCollum v. Board of Education* (1948)
17. *Smith v. California* (1959)
18. *Engel v. Vitale* (1962)
19. *Miller v. California* (1973)
20. *Connick v. Myers* (1983)

**Right to Bear Arms**

1. *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008)
2. *United States v. Miller (1939)*

**Privacy Rights**

1. *Griswold v. Connecticut* (1965)
2. *Katz v. United States* (1967)
3. *New Jersey v. T.L.O.* (1985)
4. *Terry v. Ohio* (1968)
5. *United States v. United States District Court* (1972)

**Other**

1. *Grutter v. Bollinger* (2003)
2. *Bush v. Gore* (2000)
3. *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
4. *Korematsu v. United States* (1944)
5. *Vacco v. Quill* (1997)
6. *United States v. Nixon* (1974)
7. *Meyer v. Nebraska (1923)*
8. *Ray v. Blair* (1952)
9. *Menominee Tribe v. United States* (1968)
10. *Nixon v. General Services Administration* (1977)
11. *Sony Corp. of America v. University City Studios, Inc.* (1984)