

Landmark Supreme court Cases

2014-2015 Brady’s AP GOVERNMENT CLASSES

**AP Government**

**Landmark U.S. Supreme Court Case Studies**

The cases listed below are 105 of the landmark decisions reached by the United States Supreme Court. It is likely that some of these cases will appear on the AP exam. Each student was assigned one case from the list below and wrote a legal brief concerning it. The directions stipulated that each brief **must be typed** and **must not exceed** a single sheet of paper. The title of the case was to be centered at the top of the page and the student author’s name should appear in the upper right-hand corner. The five parts of the legal brief were to be addressed in a section heading that is **capitalized and underlined** as follows**:**

FACTS: What happened in the case?

ISSUE: What is the Supreme Court asked to decide? What is the Constitutional question?

ARGUMENTS: What are the primary arguments advanced by the Supreme Court to reach its decision?

DECISION: What did the Supreme Court decide? The decision must be related to the issue above.

IMPLICATIONS: What were, are, or might be the effects of the decision?

**THE CASES**

1. Abington School District v. Schempp (1963) - School prayer

2. Alden v. Maine (1999) - State immunity in Federal Courts

3. Baker v. Carr (1962) - Apportionment

4. Barron v. Baltimore (1833) - Constitution federal not state

5. Bethel School District No. 403 v. Fraser (1986) - Lewd speech not protected at school

6. Betts v. Brady (1942) - Right to counsel

7. Bowers v. Hardwick (1986) - Gay rights

8. Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969) - Freedom of speech/KKK

9. Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka (1954-55) - Separate but unequal

10. Buckley v. Valeo (1976) - PACs and cash as free speech

11. Bush v. Gore (2000) - The decision to end the recount

12. Communist Party v. Subversive Activities Control Board (1961) - Registration

13. Cox v. Louisiana (1965) - Civil disobedience

14. Dickerson v. United States (2000) - A Miranda case

15. Dred Scott v. Sanford (1857) - Slavery and citizenship

16. Edwards v. Aguillard (1987) - Creationism

17. Engle v. Vitale (1962) - Nondenominational prayer

18. Escobedo v. Illinois (1964) - Confession when counsel denied

19. Everson v. Board of Education (1947) - Parochial busing

20. Furman v. Georgia (1972) - Death penalty

21. Gibbons v. Ogden (1824) - Interstate commerce

22. Gideon v. Wainwright (1963) - Right to counsel

23. Gitlow v. New York (1925) - Free speech and press

24. Good News Club v. Milford Central School (2000) - Religious use of school facility

25. Gregg v. Georgia (1976) - Death penalty

26. Gregory v. Chicago (1969) - Due process

27. Griswold v. Connecticut (1965) - Right to privacy

28. Hammer v. Dagenhart (1918) - Child labor laws

29. Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier (1988) - Students and freedom of press

30. Humphrey’s Executor v. United States (1935) - Executive branch and FTC

31. Jones v. Mayer (1968) - Race and real estate

32. Katz v. United States (1967) - Surveillance

33. Korematsu v. United States (1944) - Japanese internment

34. Lee v. Weisman (1992) - Clergy can participate in graduation

35. Lemon v. Kurtzman (1971) - Public salary subsidies of private school teachers

36. Louisville Bank v. Radford (1935) - Bankruptcy

37. Marbury v. Madison (1803) - Judicial review

38. Mapp v. Ohio (1961) - Admissibility of illegally obtained evidence

39. McCulloch v. Maryland (1819) - Federal supremacy

40. Minersville School District v. Board of Education (1940) - Flag and pledge case

41. Miranda v. Arizona (1966) - Accused must be informed of rights

42. Mitchell v. Helms (2000) - Federal monies for private schools

43. Munn v. Illinois (1887) - State legislated grain prices

44. Near v. Minnesota (1931) - Freedom of press

45. New Jersey v. TLO (1985) - Search and seizure in schools

46. New York Times v. Sullivan (1964) - Libel standards for press

47. New York Times v. United States (1971) - Pentagon Papers

48. Planned Parenthood v. Casey (1992) - Abortion case

49. Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) - Separate but equal

50. Printz v. United States (1997) - Brady background checks

51. Reed v. Reed (1971) - Sex equity

52. Regents of the University of California v. Bakke (1978) - Race-based quotas

53. Reynolds v. Sims (1964) - Malapportionment

54. Reynolds v. United States (1879) – Polygamy case/establishment clause

55. Roe v. Wade (1971) - Abortion

56. San Antonio v. Rodriguez (1973) - School finance via property tax

57. Schechter Poultry Corp. V. United States (1935) - Interstate commerce

58. Schenck v. United States (1919) - Clear and present danger

59. Shaw v. Reno (1993) - Majority/Minority districts

60. Sheppard v. Maxwell (1966) - Conflict of Constitutional rights

61. Terry v. Ohio (1968) - Appropriateness of search

62. Texas v. Johnson (1989) - Flag burning

63. Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1969) - Peaceful student protest

64. United States v. Eichman (1990) - Flag burning

65. United States v. Leon (1984) - Exclusionary rule

66. United States v. Lopez (1995) - Gun Free Zones Act

67. United States v. Nixon (1974) - Executive privilege

68. United States v. Virginia (VMI) (1996) - Gender-based education

69. United States v. Won Kim Ark (1898) - Citizenship

70. United Steel Workers of America v. Weber (1979) - Private, voluntary quotas

71. Wallace v. Jaffree (1985) - One minute period of silence

72. West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette (1943) - Mandatory pledge

73. Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972) - Religion and public education

74. Wolf v. Colorado (1949) - Abortion

75. Zorach v. Clausen (1952) - Leaving school for religious instruction

76. Kelo V. City of New London (2005) - The controversial eminent domain case.

77. Elk Grove Unified School District v. Newdow (2004) ‑ The “Pledge” case.

78. District of Columbia v. Heller (2007) - Second Amendment case.

79. Citizens United v. Federal Elections Commission (2008) - Free Speech/Political Speech.

80. Grutter v. Bollinger (2002) – Race basis for Michigan’s Law School Applicants.

81. Gratz v. Bollinger (2002) – Race basis for undergraduate admissions.

82. MCConnell v. FEC (2002) – “Soft money” ban on contribut-

ions legal?

83. Fisher v. Texas (2012) University of Texas Admissions Case.

84. United States vs. Windsor (2013) DOMA and Same Sex Marriage.

85. Florida v. Harris (2012) 4th Amendment and search dogs.

86.Maryland v. King (2012) 4th Amendment and DNA samples

87.Holder v. Gutierrez (2011) Resident status of minors/citizenship.

88. McDonald v. Chicago(2009) Does 2nd Amendment apply to states through incorporation?

89. Baker v. Nelson (1971) Legal right to gay marriage?

90. Morse vs. Frederick (2007) Bong hits for Jesus case!

91. McCutcheon vs. FEC (2013) Aggregate limits on campaign contributions?

92. Burwell vs. Hobby Lobby Stores (2014) Religious Freedom/Health coverage?

93. Michigan vs. Bay Mills Indian Community (2013) Indian Gaming and Land rights.

94. Paroline vs. The U.S. (2013) Restitution Case.

95. Salinas vs. Texas(2012) A 5th Amendment Case.

96. Miller vs. Alabama (2011) An 8th and 14th Amendment Case.

97. Davis vs. U.S. (2010) Good Faith Exception in arrests?

98. Wal-Mart vs. Dukes(2010) Equal Pay Case

99. Arizona Christian School Tuition vs. Winn (2010)-Establishment Clause

100. U.S. vs. Playboy Entertainment (1999) FCC and Decency Case.

101. Brown vs. Plata (2010) Prisons and Cruel and Unusual Punishment

102. Department of homeland Security vs. McClean (2014) Whistleblower Protection Act.

103. T-Mobile South, LLC vs. City of Roswell Georgia (2014) Cell phone towers in neighborhoods?

104. Swann vs. Charlotte-Mecklenberg BD. Of Ed. (1970) Busing as a remedy to segregation?

105. Alabama Legislative Black Caucus vs. Alabama (2014) Redistricting Case.

**ADDITIONAL INTERNET RESOURCES: Please Only Use these sites☺**

<www.scotusblog.com> (Site related to official site. Easy to use)

**www.supremecourtus.gov**  (The official site)

**http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct** (The great site at Cornell University)

**http://supreme.lp.findlaw.com/supreme\_court/resources.html** (Easy to use)

**http://oyez.org** (The Northwestern University site.) (My personal favorite)