

Instructions:

1. Select one Supreme Court case from each of the following six categories.
2. Research each case using the Internet, the library and your textbook.
3. For each case, prepare a typewritten brief using the format illustrated on page 2.
4. Each brief must be at least one page in length.
5. Use a separate page for each case.
6. Write each brief in your own words.

Category 1: Criminal Procedure

Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)
Mapp v. Ohio (1961)
Miranda v. Arizona (1966)

Category 2: Government Powers

Marbury v. Madison (1803)
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)
U.S. v. Nixon (1974)
Barron v. Baltimore (1833)
Baker v. Carr (1961)

Category 3: Citizenship

Korematsu v. U.S. (1944)
U.S. v. Wong Kim Ark (1897)

Category 4: Commerce

Gibbons v. Ogden (1824)

Category 5: Civil Rights

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)
California Board of Regents v. Bakke (1978)
United Steel Workers of America v. Weber (1979)
Roe v. Wade (1971)

Category 6: First and Fourteenth Amendments

Schenck v. United States (1919)
Near v. Minnesota (1931)
Engel v. Vitale (1962)
Gitlow v. New York (1923)
Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)
Zurcher v. The Stanford Daily (1978)
New York Times v. United States (1971)

Required format for Supreme Court case briefs

CASE TITLE

for example: GIDEON v. WAINWRIGHT

Issue: What question or questions was the court asked to decide?

Note: The Supreme Court does not decide guilt or innocence. In most cases, it is attempting to clarify a constitutional question. Describe here what the Supreme Court was asked to decide, not what the lower courts decided.

Facts: What happened? Describe the facts of the case.

Decision: What did the court decide? The decision must always answer the question asked in the issue.

Reasoning: What were the justifications used by the court to reach its decision.