

Civil Liberties/Civil Rights Presentation Project

AP U.S. Government

Mrs. Self

Spring 2010

Objectives:

- Students will research an area of civil liberties as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights and incorporated to all levels of government or an area of civil rights and present their information to the class in a multi-media presentation that demonstrates mastery and competence on the topic.
- Students will demonstrate depth of understanding sufficient to present the information to the class and to answer relevant questions about the issue.
- Students will develop a timeline showing the path of their assigned civil liberty from the early republic to the present, including relevant events and case law on the path to incorporation.
- Students will analyze political cartoons and interpret their relevance to their issue.

Project Assignment:

Students will be assigned to one civil liberties/civil rights area for research and completion of a multimedia presentation to the class.

Each participant will be asked to evaluate their own and their partners' performance. This evaluation will be factored into each student's grade on this assignment.

Students will prepare a multimedia presentation for the class, which can be completed in one half class period. Students will either email their presentation to Mrs. Self or provide it to her on a flash drive or CD-Rom.

Students will prepare an abstract for their classmates which includes the legal case information for each of the 10 cases they research. The abstract should include the following information on each case: name of the case (and year), the constitutional question presented and the decision of the court and its significance. This information should be brief. The purpose of the abstract is to provide information for each person, organized by area (expression, criminal rights, etc.) that they can refer back to when preparing for the exam in May. **If you give Mrs. Self a copy of the abstract a day ahead of your presentation, she will make copies of them for the class.**

Each presentation will include:

- The text of the amendment in question, including an explanation of the meaning of the amendment originally and current interpretation
- Relevant Supreme Court cases illustrating the path to incorporation on this issue. Mrs. Self will provide a few relevant cases to guide research. Students are responsible for finding additional case law on the issue to include in their presentation.
- A minimum of 2 political cartoons illustrating divergent opinions on the issue.
- Explanation of the evolution of constitutional interpretation of the liberty, including a graphical timeline
- Substantive discussion of the impact of constitutional interpretation, including **application of the interpretation in public policy**
- At least one multimedia item (video clip, podcast, music selection) relating to the topic of the civil liberty/civil right

I. Freedom of Religion

Students will present an explanation of both the establishment clause and the free exercise clause, including the following cases:

- *Cantwell v. Connecticut*
- *Everson v. Board of Education*
- *Engel v. Vitale*
- *Lemon v. Kurtzman*
- *Employment Division v. Smith*
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

II. Freedom of Expression

Students will include an explanation of freedom of expression, including pure speech and symbolic speech, including the following cases:

- Schenck v. United States
- Gitlow v. New York
- Miller v. California
- Tinker v. Des Moines
- Texas v. Johnson
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

III. Freedom of the Press

Students will include an explanation of freedom of the press, including written and broadcast media press, including the following cases:

- Near v. Minnesota
- New York Times v. United States
- Roth v. United States
- Branzburg v. Hayes
- Red Lion Broadcasting Company v. Federal Communications Commission
- Students should find at least 5 additional cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

IV. Searches and Seizures/Right to Privacy

Students will include an explanation of rights under the 4th amendment including basic search & seizure protections and the right to privacy, including the following cases:

- Wolf v. Colorado
- Mapp v. Ohio
- Terry v. Ohio
- Dow Chemical Co. v. U.S.
- Roe v. Wade
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

V. Due Process

Students will include an explanation of due process rights, including substantive and procedural due process and eminent domain, including the following cases:

- Miranda v. Arizona
- Richards v. Jefferson County
- Smith v. Phillips
- Wolff v. McDonnell
- Barron v. Baltimore
- Berman v. Parker
- Students should find at least 4 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

VI. Criminal Trial Rights

Students will include an explanation of criminal trial rights, including right to counsel, right to impartial jury and right to compulsory process for obtaining witnesses, including the following cases:

- Powell v. Alabama
- Miranda v. Arizona
- Pointer v. Texas
- Parker v. Gladden
- Washington v. Texas
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

VII. Minorities and Equal Rights

Students will include an explanation of the issue of civil liberties/rights relating to minorities in our culture, workplace, etc. including the issues of “separate but equal” treatment, civil rights acts legislation and the issues surrounding this, including the following cases:

- Plessy v. Ferguson
- Shelley v. Kraemer
- Brown v. Board of Education
- Swann v. Charlotte-Mecklenburg Board of Education
- Loving v. Virginia
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the past decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

VIII. Women and Equal Rights

Students will include an explanation of the issue of civil liberties relating to women in our culture, workplace, etc. including the issues of sexual harassment, employment discrimination and right to privacy, including the following cases:

- Reed v. Reed
- Craig v. Boren
- Griswold v. Connecticut
- Roe v. Wade
- Gonzales v. Carhart
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the last decade (hint: look for the recent Alabama case involving employment discrimination from Gadsden).

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**

IX. Equality of Results/Equality of Opportunity

Students will include an explanation of the issue of civil rights with regard to the affirmative action arguments (pro and con) relating to minorities, women, and the handicapped, including the following cases:

- Regents of the University of California v. Bakke
- United Steelworkers v. Weber
- Richmond v. Croson
- Grutter v. Bollinger
- Gratz v. Bollinger
- Students should find at least 5 more cases, including at least one case within the last decade.

Your presentation should include the relevant information about each case, including the decision of the court and the significance of the decision. **You should also include the impact of this decision on public policy.**