

LEVEL 5 – Religion in Schools

Numbering Evidence/Reasoning/Assertion

PRO

CON

Definitional Article

The debate over religious expression in the public schools is a debate about law and constitutional norms, but it is also a debate about history, society, power, cultural trends, and theology.

Editorial

Fact Set

Landmark decisions concerning religion in the public schools:

- 1948: The U.S. Supreme Court struck down religious instruction in public schools in their *McCollum v. Board of Education* decision.
- 1954: The Supreme Court let stand a lower court ruling, *Tudor v. Board of Education* against the distribution of Bibles by outside groups like the Gideons.
- 1960: Madalyn Murray O'Hair sued the Baltimore MD school system on behalf of her son William J Murray, because he was being forced to participate in prayer in schools.
- 1962: The Supreme Court, in *Engel v. Vitale*, disallowed a government-composed, nondenominational "Regents" prayer which was recited by students.