

Landmark Cases of the Supreme Court
Case Study

The Supreme Court is responsible for settling disputes and interpreting the meaning of the Constitution and the laws of our country. When the Court applies the Constitution and the laws to specific disputes, it has the power to determine our national policy for years to come. Some cases decided by the Supreme Court are called "landmark" cases because they set a precedent. They might change the interpretation of the law or become the basis for future decisions on the law.

Listed below are some of the more recent landmark cases and the issue the case covered. Select one of these cases (or find one of your own) using the websites listed below to research and present to the class.

Plyler v. Doe	educating children of illegal immigrants
Regents of the University of California v. Bakke	racial quotas in college admissions
Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier	freedom of speech and school newspapers
Texas v. Johnson	flag burning - a form of symbolic speech protected by the Constitution?
Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens	Bible study groups meeting in public schools
New Jersey v. T.L.O	school searches of students' belongings
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District	political (anti-war) protest in schools
Roe v. Wade	abortion
District of Columbia v. Heller	the right to keep a gun in your home
Mapp v. Ohio	unreasonable search and seizure
Cruzan v. Director, Missouri Department of Health	right to die (withhold treatment for comatose patient)

Here are some resources to help you in your research:

[The Constitution, Past, Present, and Future](#) (I have copies of this book for you to use.)

www.landmarkcases.org

www.oyez.org

<http://www.infoplease.com/us/supreme-court/cases/>