

*Miranda v. Arizona* represents a landmark decision in the United States which established what are now known as "Miranda Rights". The case brought to light the need for routine police procedure to include a reading of an individual's rights against self-incrimination. Although at the time the case was controversial, it paved the way for new policies which protected the rights of accused citizens. It was a necessary decision and the case was therefore an important contribution to America's political history. As a result of the case, U.S. citizens' rights are protected in the event of conviction. The following essay will describe the basic facts of the case and how it impacts us today.

The *Miranda v. Arizona* began after a 1963 arrest in Phoenix, AZ when Ernesto Miranda was convicted of rape, kidnapping and robbery (PBS, 2013, Par. 1). Although Miranda appeared guilty, he was not treated fairly by prosecutors because police failed to inform him of his rights before police interrogation. Although Miranda confessed to the crimes, he did so without being aware of his rights. It also became apparent that Miranda was restricted with a mental disability as he had no schooling beyond ninth grade. This left him unable to understand his rights based on prior education. The trial utilized his confession as evidence, but the confession itself was obtained in an illegal manner as Miranda was unaware of his rights. He was convicted to 20 years in prison for both rape and kidnapping. He later appealed to the Arizona Supreme court claiming that his confession was unconstitutionally obtained by police, but the court disagreed (PBS, Par. 1). In 1966, Miranda appealed to the Supreme Court and a 5-4 decision determined that his confession could not be used as evidence since he was not informed of his rights prior to giving it. Thus, it was an unethical case of self-incrimination.

The decision made by Chief Justice Earl Warren was very significant as it established a very accurate rule for law enforcement to follow known as the "Miranda Rights". At the time,