

# Significant Supreme Court Cases

2.05 Analyze court cases that illustrate that the United States Constitution is the supreme law of the land.

2.06 Analyze court cases that demonstrate how the United States Constitution and the Bill of Rights protect the rights of individuals.

<p>Dred Scott v. Sanford</p>	<p>Scott sued unsuccessfully in the Missouri courts for his freedom, claiming that his residence in free territory made him a free man. Court ruled slaves were property and not citizens.</p>
<p>McCulloch v. Maryland</p>	<p>Congress had the power to create a national bank and that Maryland could not tax instruments of the national government. Chief Justice Marshall noted that Congress possessed unenumerated powers not explicitly outlined in the Constitution.</p>
<p>Furman v. Georgia</p>	<p>While Furman was burglarizing, he tripped and fell and the gun that he was carrying went off and killed a resident of the home. He was convicted of murder and sentenced to death. Court ruled violated 8th Amendment: cruel and unusual punishment.</p>
<p>Marbury v. Madison</p>	<p>When the Constitution--the nation's highest law--conflicts with an act of the legislature, that act is invalid. This case establishes the Supreme Court's power of <b>judicial review</b>.</p>
<p>Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka</p>	<p>Court ruled that racial segregation in public education has a detrimental effect on minority children because it is interpreted as a sign of inferiority. The long-held doctrine that separate facilities were permissible provided they were equal was rejected. Separate but equal is inherently unequal in the context of public education.</p>

<p><b>Brandenburg v. Ohio</b></p>	<p>Brandenburg, a leader in the Ku Klux Klan, made a speech at a Klan rally advocating "crime, sabotage, violence, or unlawful methods of terrorism." Court protected right to free speech and overturned Ohio law.</p>
<p><b>Korematsu v. US</b></p>	<p>The Court held that the need to protect against espionage outweighed Korematsu's rights. Justice Black argued that compulsory exclusion is justified during circumstances of "emergency and peril."</p>
<p><b>Mapp v. Ohio</b></p>	<p>Mapp was convicted of possessing obscene materials after an admittedly illegal police search of her home for a fugitive. Court declared that "all evidence obtained by searches and seizures in violation of the Constitution is, by [the Fourth Amendment], inadmissible in a state court."</p>
<p><b>Gideon v. Wainwright</b></p>	<p>The Court held that Gideon had a right to be represented by a court-appointed attorney; the Sixth Amendment's guarantee of counsel was a fundamental right, essential to a fair trial.</p>
<p><b>Miranda v. Arizona</b></p>	<p>The Court specifically outlined the necessary aspects of police warnings to suspects, including warnings of the right to remain silent and the right to have counsel present during interrogations.</p>

<p>Roe v. Wade</p>	<p>The Court held that a woman's right to an abortion fell within the right to privacy protected by the Fourth Amendment. The decision gave a woman total autonomy over the pregnancy during the first trimester.</p>
<p>Heart of Atlanta Motel v. US</p>	<p>The Court held that the Commerce Clause allowed Congress to regulate local incidents of commerce, and that the Civil Right Act of 1964 was constitutional. The Court thus concluded that places of public accommodation had no "right" to select guests as they saw fit, free from governmental regulation.</p>
<p>Plessy v. Ferguson</p>	<p>The court upheld state-imposed racial segregation. The justices based their decision on the separate-but-equal doctrine, that separate facilities for blacks and whites satisfied the Fourteenth Amendment so long as they were equal.</p>
<p>Tinker v. Des Moines</p>	<p>The wearing of armbands was protected by the First Amendment. School environments imply limitations on free expression, but here the principals lacked justification for imposing any such limits.</p>
<p>Engel v. Vitale</p>	<p>The Board of Regents for the State of New York authorized a short, voluntary prayer for recitation at the start of each school day. Neither the prayer's nondenominational character nor its voluntary character saves it from unconstitutionality..</p>

<p><b>NY Times v. US</b></p>	<p>The Nixon Administration attempted to prevent the New York Times from publishing materials belonging to a classified Defense Department study. The court decided since the publication would not cause an inevitable, direct, and immediate event imperiling the safety of American forces, prior restraint was unjustified.</p>
<p><b>US v. Nixon</b></p>	<p>Nixon asserted that he was immune from being subpoenaed claiming "executive privilege." The Court held that neither the doctrine of separation of powers, nor the generalized need for confidentiality of high-level communications protected Nixon.</p>
<p><b>Gibbons v. Ogden</b></p>	<p>A New York state law gave two individuals the exclusive right to operate steamboats on waters within state jurisdiction. In this case a steamboat owner who did business between New York and New Jersey challenged the monopoly that New York had granted. The New York law was invalid by virtue of the Commerce Clause.</p>
<p><b>Swann v. Charlotte</b></p>	<p>The Court held that busing was an appropriate remedy for the problem of racial imbalance among schools,.</p>
<p><b>Gregg v. Georgia</b></p>	<p>The Court held that a punishment of death did not violate the Eighth and Fourteenth Amendments under all circumstances. In extreme criminal cases, such as when a defendant has been convicted of deliberately killing another, the careful and judicious use of the death penalty may be appropriate if carefully employed.</p>

**New Jersey v.  
TLO**

T.L.O. was a fourteen-year-old; she was accused of smoking in the girls' bathroom of her high school. A principal at the school searched her purse, yielding a bag of marijuana. Court allowed for searches at school without probable cause.

**Regents of the  
University of  
California v.  
Bakke**

Court decided that the rigid use of racial quotas as employed at the University of California violated the equal protection clause of the Fourteenth Amendment.

**Bethel School  
District v. Frasier**

The Court found that it was appropriate for the school to prohibit the use of vulgar and offensive language.

**Hazelwood v.  
Kuhlmeier**

The Court held that the First Amendment did not require schools to allow particular types of student speech. The Court held that schools must be able to set high standards for student speech.

**Texas v. Johnson**

The Court held that Johnson's burning of a flag was protected expression under the First Amendment.