

Guided Lesson Notes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Name: Your Issues in Court

Directions: Complete this study guide as you move through the lesson. By taking notes, you are more likely to remember what you are learning. The completed study guide can be used for practice activities and to prepare for quizzes and exams. Be sure to save each study guide so you can access it when you need it.

Essential Vocabulary

As you encounter these government terms in the lesson, enter the meaning and an example (or two) for each. You can even draw a picture. If there are other unfamiliar words you find, enter them in the blank spaces provided.

<i>Supreme Court</i>	<i>majority opinion</i>
<i>dissenting opinion</i>	<i>concurring opinion</i>

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The Last Word

Question	Answer
Why did Homer Plessy believe that Louisiana's segregation laws were unconstitutional, and what was the outcome of his case?	
How did the Supreme Court justify its decision in Plessy v. Ferguson, and what does this suggest about attitudes toward segregation at the time?	
What was the key difference in the Supreme Court's reasoning between Plessy v. Ferguson and Brown v. Board of Education?	
How did the Brown decision and later Supreme Court rulings reflect changing attitudes in the United States about civil rights and equality?	

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Controversial

Question	Answer
Why was the Brown v. Board of Education decision so controversial, and how did some Americans react to it at the time?	
What challenges did people face when trying to implement school integration following the Brown decision?	
How does the text explain the long-term impact of Supreme Court decisions like Brown v. Board of Education on American society and culture?	

Rights and Wrongs?

Describe some 20th century landmark Supreme Court cases that have caused significant controversy.

Case	What controversy caused it?
Miranda Rights	
Affirmative Action	

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Contract Incentives	
Same Sex Education	

Anatomy of a Decision

Review the key parts of documents that describe Supreme Court case rulings.

Part	Describe
Heading	
Syllabus	
The Main or Majority Opinion	
Concurring and Dissenting Opinion	

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For or Against?

Use the graphic organizer below to compare and contrast the arguments made by Washington, D.C., and Dick Heller in the Supreme Court case *District of Columbia v. Heller*.

Category	Plaintiff	Defendant
Main Argument		
Interpretation of “bear arms”		
Use of Historical Evidence		
View on Handgun Restriction		
Key Supporting Voice		

Brace for Impact

Question	Answer
Why do Supreme Court decisions often receive strong reactions from the public?	

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How did the Brown v. Board of Education decision show both short-term and long-term impacts on American society?

What You Know Now

After reviewing your court case and the related information, answer the following opinion-based questions.

Question	Answer
Do you agree or disagree with the Supreme Court's decision in the case you studied? Why or why not?	
What part of the case or legal arguments made you think more deeply about the issue, and how did it shape your opinion?	