

How Does the Supreme Court Affect 1st Amendment Rights?

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Lesson: First Amendment Issues and the Supreme Court

Duration: Two 80 minutes periods

Subject: Civics

Description: Students will research, analyze, and debate the different ways the Supreme Court shapes 1st Amendment rights.

Essential Questions: Can the Supreme Court change the way 1st Amendment rights are viewed and interpreted?

Standards:

USG- 3.1; USG-4.5: USG-4.6

Objectives:

SWBAT analyze and discuss the 1st Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

SWBAT analyze a case and write a short brief of the case.

SWBAT summarize the issues, facts, opinions, and outcome of their case and explain their case to the class.

Material: Copy of Supreme Court cases; Copy of a legal brief; Copy of the U.S. Constitution; Laptops.

Agenda:

Discussion of the First Amendment (lecture).

Review of legal vocabulary terms

Break case into small groups and assign their cases

Model to students how a case should be briefed

Research case and create a PowerPoint presentation on their case

Write a legal brief

Present their case to the rest of the class

Have the other groups make a prediction on the outcome of the case

Reveal the real outcome of case to the class

Discuss the outcome of the cases

Assessment(s): Power Point; legal brief; and create a reflection paper of 500 words on how the case affected the First Amendment.