



SCOTUS MARCH MADNESS BRACKETOLOGY!!!
AP Gov/Ms. Strong

Directions

To help you learn and apply important constitutional and legal principles, we are going to play our version of *March Madness!* in a 32 team bracket. You will work in a small team (your very own Selection Committee) where you will quickly research landmark Supreme Court decisions, rank their seeding, set up the March Madness bracket using specific criteria, and ultimately choose the Final Four and the eventual National Champion! You will then present your findings to the rest of the class and defend your picks.

GRADES: 1) Each student will turn in her/his own bracket and receive an individual grade; 2) Each team will receive a presentation grade

I. Seeding the Teams in Regions

Tasks

- 1) Choose your #1 seeds in each region based on the criteria below.
- 2) Seed the rest of the teams in the corresponding region (where possible).
- 3) Rank the Teams 1-8 in each Region on the Regional Seeding Chart
- 4) Regions:
 - Constitutional Powers & Principles
 - Civil Rights & Privacy
 - Bill of Rights
 - Political Process

Criteria

- 1) *Past performance* - Historical importance of the case i.e. has it stood up over time?
- 2) *Immediate impact* - Effect of the decision when it was handed down; who was affected by the decision
- 3) *Public perception of the case* - How Americans then and now view the case
- 4) *Stare decisis value* - Importance of precedent(s) established by this case for future cases

II. Picks in the Bracket

Tasks

- 1) Make your choices and match ups based on the criteria below.
- 2) Fill out each region's 1st bracket with initial match-ups
- 3) Then make your picks for the Sweet 16, Elite 8, Final Four and National Champion
- 4) Rank the Teams 1-8 in each Region on the Regional Seeding Chart

Criteria

- 1) *Actual performance* - What has been the actual impact of the decision v. what the public thinks does.
- 2) *Past performance* - Historical importance of the case; has it stood up over time?
- 3) *Stare Decisis value* - Importance of precedent(s) established by this case for future cases
- 4) *Future importance* - Will this case emerge/become more/less important in the future

III. Bracket Presentation

Presentation Points

- 1) Consider doing your presentation in an ESPN-style format (sports anchor voices!)
- 2) Discuss why you choose the top and bottom seed in each region.
- 3) Describe key match ups, close games, and potential upsets in Round 1, Sweet 16 and Elite 8.
- 4) Defend your Final Four picks and the National Champion.



SCOTUS MARCH MADNESS: LANDMARK CASES
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Recommended Sources – ranked in order of effectiveness

- AP U.S. Government Landmark Supreme Court Cases (Quizlet) – <https://quizlet.com/78349512/ap-us-gov-landmark-supreme-court-cases-flash-cards/>
- Oyez Supreme Court Case search engine - <http://www.oyez.org>
- Findlaw Search Engine - <http://www.findlaw.com/casecode/supreme.html>
- Sabato (p. 655-659), Selected Supreme Court Cases”

Landmark Cases

- 1) *Baker v. Carr* (1962) – voting rights
- 2) *Brown v Board of Education* (1954) – school integration
- 3) *Buckley v Valeo* (1976) – campaign finance
- 4) *Bush v. Gore* (2000) – presidential elections
- 5) *Citizens United v. FEC* (2010) – campaign finance
- 6) *District of Columbia v. Heller* (2008) – gun rights
- 7) *Dred Scott v Stanford* (1857) - slavery
- 8) *Engel v Vitale* (1962) – school prayer
- 9) *Gibbons v Ogden* (1824) – interstate commerce
- 10) *Gideon v Wainwright* (1963) – right to counsel
- 11) *Gitlow v New York* (1925) – selective incorporation
- 12) *Griswold v Connecticut* (1965) – right to privacy
- 13) *Heart of Atlanta Motel v United States* (1964) – segregation
- 14) *Korematsu v United States* (1944) – Japanese internment
- 15) *Lemon v Kurtzman* (1971) – government and religion
- 16) *Loving v. Virginia* (1967) – interracial marriage
- 17) *Mapp v Ohio* (1961) – exclusionary rule
- 18) *Marbury v Madison* (1803) – judicial review
- 19) *McCulloch v Maryland* (1819) – national bank
- 20) *Miranda v Arizona* (1966) – notification of rights
- 21) *New York Times v Sullivan* (1964) – freedom of the press
- 22) *New York Times v United States* (1971) – freedom of the press
- 23) *Plessey v Ferguson* (1896) – separate but equal
- 24) *Regents of the University of California v Bakke* (1978) – affirmative action
- 25) *Roe v Wade* (1973) – privacy and abortion
- 26) *Schenck v United States* (1919) – free speech
- 27) *Shelby County v. Holder* (2013) – voting rights
- 28) *Texas v Johnson* (1989) – flag burning
- 29) *Tinker v Des Moines* (1969) – student free speech
- 30) *United States v Lopez* (1995) - federalism
- 31) *United States v Nixon* (1974) – executive privilege
- 32) *Obergefell v. Hodges* (2015) – same sex marriage