

# PROJECT: SUPREME COURT

The Supreme Court holds the power to interpret the laws that change the fabric of our daily lives. The practices of the federal government are called into question when the highest court in our country rules on the cases presented before them. Past rulings have struck down the practice of racial segregation in public schools, defined free speech, and upheld child labor laws. The Court's decisions impact our rights as citizens and cover topics concerning abortion, free speech, racial quotas, reading material, and illegal searches. The Supreme Court's interpretation of federal laws leads to the practical application and enforcement of those laws.

Every case heard by the Supreme Court is an argument. In the end, the Supreme Court decides which side of the argument is correct. Their claim is called the Opinion of the Court. However, a minority of Supreme Court justices might disagree with the opinion of the court or its impact on federal law. Their counter claim is called the Dissenting Opinion. Not every split ruling will result in a published Dissenting Opinion, but many do. Although only some cases will publish a Dissenting Opinion, all cases will result in an Opinion of the Court.

Create a slide presentation analyzing a Supreme Court Ruling that includes a Dissenting Opinion. For your research, you can utilize the internet, library, or newspapers. A good place to start is the government's Supreme Court website: <http://www.supremecourt.gov>. Make sure you include the following slides:

Slide 1 – Title Page

Slide 2-10 – Introduce all current Supreme Court Justices and one interesting fact about each not found within the Supreme Court biographies.

Slide 11 – Introduction to your case with appropriate background information

Slide 12 – The name of the Justice who wrote the Opinion of the Court and a summary of the Opinion of the Court.

Slide 13 – The name of the Justice who wrote the Dissenting Opinion and a summary of the Dissenting Opinion.

Slide 14 – A concluding paragraph that offers your personal opinion on the case. Who do you agree with – the Opinion of the Court or the Dissenting Opinion? Why?

Slide 15 – References