

## SPECIFICATIONS FOR THE RESEARCH PAPER

Please choose from these famous Supreme Court decisions:

- Affirmative Action
- Civil Rights & Equal Protection
- Freedom of Speech, Assembly, & Press
- Search & Seizure
- Capital Punishment
- Due Process
- Privacy
- Freedom/Establishment of Religion
- Censorship
- Habeas Corpus
- Second Amendment

Begin your research by consulting the references from our library orientation for background information and possible suggestions for sources. Then consult periodical and newspaper articles, books, and electronic sources as necessary. You must cite a minimum of five / maximum of eight sources—including *print*/maximum of three *electronic*—in the essay.

The paper will concern itself with two relevant cases and be divided into five major sections:

- 1 Effective introduction (one ¶), which contains a “hook” and a thesis sentence (the importance / significance of the cases in American history)
- 2 a section (one or two ¶s) summarizing the cases’ basic facts & significant details
- 3 a section (one or two ¶s) summarizing the petitioners’ principal arguments
- 4 a section (one or two ¶s) summarizing the respondents’ principal arguments
- 5 a conclusion that discusses the court’s final conclusions / decisions and your position about the outcomes—do you agree or disagree? Why? Was justice served?

Your sources will be correctly and smoothly integrated into the body of your paper using proper MLA documentation as outlined in your textbook(s). Use a signal phrase to introduce the source of every quote and/or summarized material from secondary sources. Your excerpts should demonstrate your ability to draw from a wide range of responsible media. All outside texts and/or summaries must be cited in the body of your paper and listed in a Works Cited page, which appears as a separate sheet at the end of your research paper (please follow the format provided in the MLA section your text[s]).

You are responsible for avoiding plagiarism—***whether intentional or accidental***—and for correctly introducing and documenting all source material, whether summarized or directly quoted.

Please follow our standard manuscript form (i.e., double space, 1” margins). Center your (one-line) title on the first page, with your name in the corner (left or right)—no separate title page, please. **Include photocopies of all source material, alphabetized as per Works Cited, and highlight the material that you have quoted or summarized.** Last, be sure to run a spell check and proofread carefully. It is okay to make (minor) corrections in ink before you submit the final draft.