

Introduction to Political Science - Research Exercise 5

Due Wednesday, December 2

Read all directions carefully and follow them closely.

Note:

All work, unless otherwise noted, is to be typed, double spaced in 12 point font with exactly 1" margins and left aligned. There will be substantial grading penalties for violating the above standards.

Draft a case brief

I will assign each of you an important U.S. Supreme Court case to brief. Your brief must answer the following questions, but do so in a flowing, coherent essay rather than a series of curt sentences:

What were the facts of the case? Who were the disputing parties and what was the controversy before the Court?

What were the legal and practical issues the Court was asked to address? What were the important questions the Court answered in hearing the case?

What was the decision regarding the above question? What was the margin of victory? Why was the decision made? What was the majority's legal rationale?

What precedent for the rule of law was set by this decision?

In addition to discussing the particulars of the case and decision, create a cogent and well-supported argument that the justices in the majority employed either a strict or loose construction of the Constitution in making their decision. Finally, make supported assertions that the majority opinion is either an example of judicial restraint or activism.

Below is a list of the cases assigned to students:

Loving v. Virginia
McDonald v. Chicago
Citizens United v. FEC
Grutter v. Bollinger
Escobedo v. Illinois
Powell v. Alabama
Gideon v. Wainwright
Katzenbach v. McClung
Baker v. Carr
Miller v. Johnson

Jason Rivera
Carissa Pham
Mariel Perez
Monica Pepping
Ruchir Narula
Mario Montano
Stefanie Manzo
Austin Haviken
Cassandra Evans
Preston Condra

After completing your work, reread the assignment to make sure you have followed every direction correctly and performed each task fully. Please, avoid the pain of omission.