

Court Case Research Project

Overview:

- Assign students 1 of 16 landmark cases (suggestion, highlight assigned court cases on handout before passing out)
- Student research court case, complete research assignment (graphic organizer) and placard; they do a '1 minute presentation' over the case while other students take notes on the graphic organizer. In large classes, two or more students may be assigned to the same court case
 - Can assign as a team assignment or have students research/present separately (each case then is presented twice)
- Approximately 1 day (55 minutes) to research/prepare, 1 day to present

Materials/Resources:

- Research page for students; 1 side graphic organizer to get details and record sources, 1 side to record summaries of cases during presentations
- 1-page placard; students fill in with information when research is complete, used as visual aid during presentation
 - Alternative: have students create own mini-poster or short PowerPoint
- Landmark Case quiz over cases

Suggested Rubric:

Criteria	Grading Scale			
Research Student Carefully Researches their assigned case, notes are detailed and written in their own words (summaries)	20 Excellent	17 Good	15 Satisfactory	13 Needs Improvement
Research Student Lists/includes multiple resources that were used for their research (at least 3)	5 Excellent	3.5 Good	2 Satisfactory	1 Needs Improvement
Placard Student carefully summaries information in their own words and includes important details	20 Excellent	17 Good	15 Satisfactory	13 Needs Improvement
Presentation Student presents in class; a clear voice, carefully summarizes the case and its importance	10 Excellent	8.5 Good	7 Satisfactory	5 Needs Improvement
Neatness Placard is neatly and carefully constructed	5 Excellent	3.5 Good	2 Satisfactory	1 Needs Improvement

Total pts: 60

Suggested Websites for student research:

- Oyez <https://www.oyez.org/>
- Landmark Cases.org <https://www.landmarkcases.org/>
- Findlaw <https://caselaw.findlaw.com/court/us-supreme-court>
- US Courts Supreme Court Landmarks <https://www.uscourts.gov/about-federal-courts/educational-resources/supreme-court-landmarks>
- Cornell Law School Supreme Court <https://www.law.cornell.edu/supremecourt/text/home>
- Justia US Law <https://law.justia.com/>