

“Simple Justice”

This video is based on the non-fiction book of the same name by Richard Kluger. It chronicles the process leading up to the historic Supreme Court ruling *Brown vs The Board of Education of Topeka, KS*.

Directions:

Identify the following people, institutions, and cases. Make sure to give **SPECIFIC** details about the items below & think about how these people, institutions, and cases helped lead to the integration of schools.

1. Howard University –

2. Charles Houston –

3. Thurgood Marshal –

4. NAACP –

5. Kenneth Clark –

6. University of Texas Law School

7. Earl Warren –

Directions:

Answer the following questions with **SPECIFICS** from the movie – did I mention using **SPECIFICS** and more **SPECIFICS**?

10. What was the role of social science (and psychology, in particular) in the Supreme Court's decision? (Hint: Look at the doll experiment)

11. Describe the strategy developed by the NAACP lawyers leading to the ruling on Brown vs. *The Board of Education of Topeka, KS*.

The Supreme Court cases below help explain other major decisions leading to *The Brown* ruling.

Dred Scott vs Sandford (1857)

- Dred Scott was a slave – he was taken by his owners from a “slave” state to a “free” territory.
 - Scott argued he should be considered “free” due to living in a “free” area.
- The Supreme Court denied Scott's request
- * CT: African Americans – free or slaves – were NOT citizens of the US and had no right to sue in federal courts.
 - Additionally the CT had no power in the territories.
- * Considered worst ruling in history
 - Started racial / anti-slavery dissent in North
 - Helped lead to the American Civil War

Plessy vs Ferguson (1896)

- LA passed “Separate Car Act” requiring separate accommodations for blacks and whites on railroad including railway cars
- Comite des Citoyens repeal act or fight its effects
 - Convinced Homer Plessy (mixed 7/8 European / 1/8 black) to test the act
 - Under LA law, Plessy was black
- Plessy boarded “white only” railway car in New Orleans
 - Railroad company was chosen because they opposed the law – they did not want to buy more railway cars
 - Comite hired a private detective with arresting power to arrest Plessy for violating the act
- Plessy was asked to move to a “black only” railway car – he refused & was arrested by the private detective

- The train was stopped, Plessy was removed and thrown in jail – will go to trial
- Plessy argued that the “Separate Car Act” was against the 13th Amendment (no slavery) & the 14th Amendment (equality)
 - He was convicted and fined \$25
- * Ct: upheld the constitutionality of state laws requiring racial segregation in railway cars under the doctrine “separate, but equal”
 - LA did not violate the 14th Amendment because they offered both a white and black railway car
- * “separate, but equal” goes into ALL public facilities
 - Remains until *Brown* in 1954