

Name: _____

Supreme Court Thematic Essay

Directions: Write a well-organized essay that includes an introduction, several paragraphs addressing the task below, and a conclusion.

Theme: The United States Supreme Court has played a major role in United States history. The Court's decisions have had a significant impact on many aspects of American society.

Task: Select two Supreme Court cases that have had an impact on American society and for each

- Describe the historical circumstances surrounding the case
- Explain the Supreme Court's decision in the case
- Discuss an impact this decision has had on American society

You may use any appropriate Supreme Court case from your study of United States history. Some suggestions you might wish to consider include *Worcester v. Georgia* (1832), *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857), *Northern Securities Co. v. United States* (1904), *Korematsu v. United States* (1944), *Brown v. Board of Education of Topeka* (1954), *Heart of Atlanta Motel v. United States* (1964), *Miranda v. Arizona* (1966), *Roe v. Wade* (1973), and *United States v. Nixon* (1974).

You are not limited to these suggestions.

In your essay, be sure to:

- Develop your task
- Support your essay with specific, facts, details, and examples, as well as OUTSIDE INFORMATION.
- Use a logical plan of organization.

Name:

Period:

Date:

Supreme Court Essay Planning Page

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Intro:

1. **Big Picture Statement:** What does the Supreme Court Do? How does it work? Why is it important?

2. **Focus:** Which two cases will you be writing about (SAY IT WITHOUT SAYING, "I'M GOING TO WRITE ABOUT")? What happened in each case?

"A case that affected American society was..." "Another case was..."

3. **Task:** What will you be doing (say it without saying, "I'm going to talk about")?

Examples: "This essay will discuss..." "In this essay, the background, decision, and impact on American society will be discussed." "This essay will demonstrate."

Case #1 (Body Paragraph #1)

Background on the case (what happened? How did the case get to the Supreme Court? Was anything important happening in America that might've contributed to this case)

The Court's Decision: (how did the court rule? Why did they rule this way? Was the decision unanimous (did everyone agree)?

Impact of the case (how was/were America, and/or the American people different because of this case?)

Case #2 (Body Paragraph #2)

Background on the case (what happened? How did the case get to the Supreme Court? Was anything important happening in America that might've contributed to this case)

The Court's Decision: (how did the court rule? Why did they rule this way? Was the decision unanimous (did everyone agree)

Impact of the case (how was/were America, and/or the American people different because of this case?)

Conclusion:

1. Remind the reader of what your essay accomplished

"The Supreme Court has made decisions which have affected American society."

2. Present some of the facts/details of the two cases:

"One case that affected American society was, _____. In this case, the court ruled that _____."

3. Explain why the outcome of these cases is important

"These cases are important, because...."

