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**Course: EDAL 560 K-12 Law**  
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## **Case Analysis**

### **Engel v Vitale**

**Case Analysis Relevant Facts:** The New York Board of Regents recommended the following nondenominational prayer for public school students to recite every morning: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country" (Hudson Jr., 2009). Students were allowed to excuse themselves from the prayer if they wish. However, a Jewish man by the name of Engel and several other parents spoke against the prayer and took the issue to court. They believed the one-size-fits-all prayer was inappropriate for children of different faiths or even no faith. Furthermore, they argued that public schools sponsored-prayer violates the Establishment Clause of the First Amendment. The U.S. Supreme Court ruled 6-1 in favor of the parents saying "that the provision allowing students to absent themselves from this activity did not make the law constitutional because the purpose of the First Amendment was to prevent government interference with religion" (USC, n.d.).

**Legal Issue:** Whether having public school students recite every morning the following nondenominational prayer violates the constitution: "Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country" (Hudson Jr., 2009).

**Opinion of the Court:** The Supreme Court voted 6-1 in favor of the parents.

**Reasons for the Court Opinion:** The Establishment Clause of the First Amendment prevents government involvement in religious affairs and that permitting students to excuse themselves from the prayer does not make it legal.

## References

Engel v. Vitale. (n.d.). Oyez. Retrieved September 30, 2021, from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1961/468>

United States Courts. (n.d.). Facts and Case Summary - Engel v. Vitale. Retrieved on September 30, 2021, from <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-engel-v-vitale>

Hudson Jr., D. L. (2009). Engel v. Vitale (1962). Retrieved October 1, 2021, from <https://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/665/engel-v-vitale>

## Grade (A)/Comments

As I've noted before Nicole, it's always great to read your thorough and complete analyses. This was no exception.

Your description of the facts of the case, the legal issues, and the Court's answer were great.

The Reasons for the Court's Opinion Section was very well laid out. Everything was precise and concise.

Thanks for another great experience in reading your paper.

Thought for YOUR day

Deuteronomy 31:6

Be strong and courageous. Do not be afraid or terrified because of them, for the LORD your God goes with you; he will never leave you nor forsake you.