

NYTimes v. Sullivan (1964) notes:

Libel: A tort (injury for which one can sue) that consists normally of printing false matter about someone that hurts their reputation. State laws can vary, and this case changed it substantially in some situations.

What is the historical background of the case (the context):

What are the key facts of this case? (Who is suing whom and why?)

What is the holding (the court's decision)? Does it hold for all people or just some types of people?

What is the court's reasoning?

How has it been expanded since 1964? (not in case)

What is the practical result of this case?

Hypothetical:

Could a typical citizen win a libel suit against a publication for it printing the wrong eye and hair color of the citizen?

If a reporter published a story about an interview with an elected official that contained major falsehoods about what the official said that would harm the official's reputation and the official could prove that with a recording of the conversation, would the reporter be covered by NYTimes v. Sullivan?