

# The Constitution and the Supreme Court

# Government

The United States Constitution guarantees certain rights all citizens. The first 10 amendments to the Constitution are known as the Bill of Rights. They provide a foundation for certain rights that are not clearly identified within the Constitution. For example, the first amendment guarantees the right to free speech.

These amendments are, however, open to interpretation. In some instances, concerned citizens may challenge the constitutionality of decisions made by various entities. These decisions may be appealed to the highest court, the Supreme Court, for interpretation. Please select an important amendment from the Bill of Rights and complete the challenge described below:

**Create a PowerPoint presentation that includes:**

- 1-2 slides that includes an amendment (preferably from the Bill of Rights)
- A description of the amendment to be questioned (in your own words)
- 6-8 slides that include coverage of a precedent setting court case (i.e. *Miranda vs. Arizona*) that cites a violation of your selected amendment.
- Include background details about the case (who, what and where)
- Include a slide (or slides) that identifies how various judges ruled (in the affirmative or dissent) including a summary of their opinions.
- Include the outcome and how it shaped current US legal policy
- Include an "I agree or disagree" with this decision because... slide
- Document your sources(s) at the bottom of each slide
- Be prepared to share your Presentation with the class.

## Grading

You will be evaluated on: 1) your ability to follow directions and cooperate with others, 2) the amount of **classroom** time (not "I'm going to do it at home or it's finished, but it's at home") utilized, 3) the accuracy and quality (including images) of the information provided, 4) your delivery to the class.

You will have several class days to complete your project. Late projects will not be accepted barring extraordinary circumstances once a deadline has been given (ordinary absences are not extraordinary).

**Lastly, you are expected to go directly to the LMC where attendance will be taken. Anyone not arriving in a reasonable amount of time will receive a detention.**

**Note:** You may find some examples at:

[http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landmark\\_decisions\\_in\\_the\\_United\\_States](http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Landmark_decisions_in_the_United_States)

<http://www.law.cornell.edu/supct/cases/topic.htm>

