

Case Reflection Information:

Supreme Court Case Discussions

Handed in reflection for each individual case (8 points for each case):

The reflection must include these three parts for EACH case.

- 1) Summarize the major issue precedent cases discussed in the article. If the case preview discusses many precedent cases, choose the 2-3 that you believe are the most important and COMPLETELY discuss how each case is relevant to the current issue. (1/2-3/4 page)
- 2) Summarize the major points of both sides in the case. You must include the main points of how BOTH the petitioner and the respondent argue their positions in their respective briefs before the Court. (1/2-3/4 page)
- 3) A minimum of three questions (if you have more than three, please include those as well) you have about the case and/or precedent cases that you need answered before you can decide the case. The questions must ask for more information about the case than is provided in the article and not reveal more about you than you would care for the class to know. For example, a question such as “What does a writ of habeas corpus mean?” does not count as a valid question since a 30 second internet search would answer the question and simply communicates the questioner is just lazy. (1/4 page)

All reflections must be typed and turned in immediately after the class discussion and decision. No papers will be accepted late. If you are absent the day a reflection is due, you must email the reflection to sjones2@hazelwoodschoools.org BEFORE the class discussion.

Participate in the discussion (2 points for each case)

As you review and we discuss these cases, it is important for you to put aside your moral and political stances and simply interpret the Constitution. You must support your opinions in the case with logic based in your understanding of the Constitution and the various factors allowed in your belief as to the best way to interpret the Constitution. Just because you believe a side is wrong does not mean you have made a valid constitutional argument.

The Constitution can be interpreted in various ways to support your political and moral views. However, the constitutional principles laid out by the Founding Fathers must be primarily behind your reasoning on these issues. The straight text of the Constitution, external evidence, pragmatic impacts, and precedent decisions (as well as dissenting opinions) of the Supreme Court can allow you to make a valid constitutional argument.