

Mourning a President

EXHIBIT LESSON PLAN

Landmark Flag Cases at the Supreme Court

Overview:

In this lesson students will read a current article about four landmark cases heard by the Supreme Court of the United States, research them, and then either debate a current question/issue about the flag or argue why the current court would or would not come to the same decision as previous courts did and what the decision might be if it were different. (Write a dissenting or concurring opinion.)

1. Have students read this article:

constitutioncenter.org/blog/when-supreme-court-justices-argue-over-the-american-flag

2. Next, put students into four groups and have groups research and learn more about one of the four cases mentioned in the article on Oyez.org or another site:

- “Texas v. Johnson.” Oyez. Accessed October 10, 2017.
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1988/88-155>.
- “Smith v. Goguen.” Oyez. Accessed October 10, 2017.
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1973/72-1254>.
Syllabus: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/415/566/>
- “Minersville School District v. Gobitis.” Oyez. Accessed October 10, 2017.
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1940-1955/310us586>.
- “West Virginia State Board of Education v. Barnette.” Oyez. Accessed October 10, 2017.
<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1940-1955/319us624>. In this decision, the Supreme Court overturned its own decision in the 1940 Minersville School District v. Gobitis case.

3. With these precedents in mind, debate a current question about the flag.

<https://www.jfk.org/wp-content/uploads/Political-Debates-Format-and-Evaluation-Sheets-1.pdf>

OR

4. If your group’s case were to be tried today, argue why there would or would not be the same decision from the current Supreme Court and what the decision might be if it were different.

Texas Social Studies Standards:

8th US History: 113.20.18, 113.20.29d-f, 113.20.30, 113.20.31

US Government: 113.44.13D, 113.44.20a-d, 113.44.21, 113.44.22

US History 113.41.21, 113.41.29a-g, 113.41.30, 113.41.32

Texas English Language Arts Reading Standards:

8th Grade: 110.20.1, 110.20.2, 110.20.10, 110.20.26, 110.20.27, 110.20.28

11th Grade: 110.33.1, 110.33.9, 110.33.24, 110.33.25, 110.33.26