

## Government Final Fall 2014

\*\* The United States Citizenship portion of the final is now on the blog. There is a study guide with answers for your convenience. We will discuss everything in class tomorrow. If you have an immediate questions you can email me at: [naurae@dearbornschools.org](mailto:naurae@dearbornschools.org) but I won't be able to reply until after 4pm.

\*\*Below are 6 controversial court cases that the Supreme Court has ruled on. I've given you a summary of each. Please read through the summaries and choose 3 cases that you find interesting. As part of your final exam, you will have to write an argumentative essay either supporting the Supreme Courts decision or arguing against it. Regardless of the case and position you choose, you will need to support your position using facts as well as personal opinion. You will also have to provide a 1 paragraph counter argument. Tomorrow we will go over the length requirements. For today, you may use your phones to look up information on each case and begin taking notes. You will be allowed to use your notes during your final exam. You can not write a rough draft and then just copy it on the day of the final! The class that collects the most money in the Silver Change Exchange contest will only have to write on 2 cases, not 3!

**Roe V Wade-** Roe v. Wade divided the country into those who believed in an unborn child's right to life and those who believed in a woman's right to choose. It raised issues of morality and privacy and is still hotly debated today. In the early 1970s, Norma McCorvey (alias Jane Roe) was a single Texas mother. Pregnant for a third time, McCorvey decided she did not want to bear a third child, but Texas state law prevented her from having an abortion. On Jan. 22, 1973, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that the constitutional right to privacy extends to a woman's decision to have an abortion. The decision came too late for Roe, who was impregnated in 1969 (she had the child and gave it up for adoption), but it guaranteed the right of women nationwide to terminate unwanted pregnancies through abortion by obliging all 50 states to legalize the divisive medical practice.

**Miranda v. Arizona-** That most television-friendly of Supreme Court cases, *Miranda v. Arizona*, was decided in 1966. Under Chief Justice Earl Warren, the court determined 5 to 4 that the police had to follow certain procedures to ensure the protection of a criminal suspect's Fifth Amendment privilege against self-incrimination. The ruling included the stipulations that suspects be told they have the right to remain silent, that anything they say could be used against them and that they have the right to an attorney. Without these Miranda warnings, the court deemed, prosecutors could not use statements made by defendants under interrogation. The decision reversed the conviction of Ernesto Miranda, who had been found guilty of kidnapping and rape in Arizona after he had confessed during police questioning without being informed of his rights.

**Marbury v. Madison-** Before vacating the Oval Office in March 1801, John Adams appointed a number of Federalists to judicial openings in an attempt to handicap President-elect Thomas Jefferson's incoming Democratic-Republican Administration. But because Adams' Secretary of State, John Marshall, failed to deliver all of the appointees' commissions, and because Jefferson subsequently directed his new Secretary of State, James Madison, not to deliver the remaining notices — a number of employees were unable to assume their new positions.

**District of Columbia v. Heller-** It had been 70 years since the Supreme Court had last tackled the central conundrum of the Second Amendment: Does the right to bear arms apply only to militias? This 2008 case specifically challenged Washington, D.C., gun-control legislation that generally prohibited carrying a pistol without a license and also required that all firearms be kept unloaded. In a split decision, the often conservative-leaning Roberts court concluded that the Second Amendment does protect an individual's right to possess a firearm unconnected with service in a militia. It was possibly the most important government statement regarding guns in the U.S. since the Second Amendment was ratified in 1791.

**Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission-** The Citizens United ruling, released in January 2010, tossed out the corporate and union ban on making independent expenditures and financing electioneering communications. It gave corporations and unions the green light to spend unlimited sums on ads and other political tools, calling for the election or defeat of individual candidates. In a nutshell, the high court's 5-4 decision said that it is OK for corporations and labor unions to spend as much as they want to convince people to vote for or against a candidate. The decision did not affect contributions. It is still illegal for companies and labor unions to give money directly to candidates for federal office. The court said that because these funds were not being spent in coordination with a campaign, they "do not give rise to corruption or the appearance of corruption."

**Bush v. Gore-** This landmark ruling essentially determined the outcome of the 2000 presidential race. The U.S. Supreme Court's 5-4 decision reversed an earlier Florida Supreme Court decision and ended a statewide recount of ballots. The justices' ruling essentially awarded Florida's 25 electoral votes to George W. Bush, saying that allowing the recount to continue would violate the 14th Amendment's Equal Protection Clause.