

Create a Podcast Activity

Main Idea:

Students will create a historical, analytical, or civil discourse podcast about a current or prior court case.

Prior Knowledge:

This would be a capstone project within a Judicial Branch/SCOTUS unit. Students need to know: the function, powers, limits of the judicial branch, the federal court structure and tier; the appeals process; appeals and SCOTUS process and procedures of written briefs, amicus briefs, oral arguments, precedents, stare decisis, constitutional & bill of rights amendments, federalism, state courts & federal courts.

Sequence:

Students can work individually in or groups of three. They will choose a landmark or contemporary court case, or a current constitutional issue dispute, such as:

Landmark Cases	Current Issues
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Miranda v. Arizona (1966)• Roe v. Wade (1973)• United States v. Lopez (1995)• Engel v. Vitale (1962)• Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)• Schenck v. United States (1919)• Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)• Citizens United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)• <i>Other ...</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immigration• Separation of Powers• Impeachment• National Deficit/National Debt• Executive Orders/Power• Gun Laws• First Amendment Freedoms• <i>Other...</i>

Missouri Learning Standards

9-12.GV.1.CC.C- Develop a research plan, identify appropriate resources for investigating social studies topics, and create and present a research product which applies an aspect of government to a contemporary issue.

Groups of Three - Roles & Expectations:

Assign the three roles - Facilitator, Expert 1, and Expert 2. The podcast will feature a debate style format, in which the facilitator runs the discussion. The two experts will be opposing in views and debate on the specifics, facts, and legal/constitutional aspects of the case or issue.

- Facilitator:
 - Will introduce the topic or case with general, non-biased information, to set the stage.
 - Will come up with 2-4 general questions that either side can answer where they can explain or expand on their views or beliefs.
 - Will come up with 1-2 specific questions aimed at one side or the other; a devil's advocate question, or one that forces each side to defend against a criticism.
 - Will keep experts civil and honest. Will correct false statements, and also keep experts on topic.
 - Will wrap up- conclusion.
- Experts 1 & 2
 - Will need to take a side or a position on this case or issue.
 - Will be knowledgeable about both sides, understanding each side's strengths and weaknesses, and be prepared to anticipate and answer questions.
 - Will be able to articulate their strengths and beliefs while defending criticisms.

Adaptation for Online Classes:

- If students are unable to collaborate because they are not physically in the classroom together, the assignment can be adapted. Students should write a summary and script for a podcast. The script assignment may be for one of the three roles, or for all three – Facilitator, Expert 1, and Expert 2.
- Or, assign individually, as described below.

Individual - Role & Expectations:

The podcast will feature a narrative, informative format, in which the narrator explains everything to the listener.

- Narrator:
 - Will introduce the topic or case with general, non-biased information, to set the stage.
 - Will go into greater detail about the facts leading up to this case or issue.
 - Will go into greater detail about both sides of this case or issue, giving equal time to each side, will not favor either side, but explain the details, positions and rationale of each side.
 - Will explain the possible ramifications of the case or issue.
 - Will wrap up- conclusion.