

Webquest for further study on the video: *The Court and You: From Suffragist Sashes to Antiwar Armbands* found at <https://youtu.be/GXJ-ks3J-FQ>

Use the websites to answer all ?s in the flow chart below:

Virginia Minor v. Reese Happersett

- <https://www.nps.gov/jeff/learn/historyculture/the-virginia-minor-case.htm>
- <https://constitutioncenter.org/blog/on-this-day-supreme-court-refuses-women-right-to-vote>
- <https://historicmissourians.shsmo.org/historicmissourians/name/m/minor/>

Tinker, et al. v. Des Moines Independent Community School District

- <https://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-tinker-v-des-moines>
- <https://www.landmarkcases.org/cases/tinker-v-des-moines>
- <https://www.landmarkcases.org/tinker-v-des-moines/tinker-v-des-moines-background-summary--questions-3>
- <https://www.oyez.org/cases/1968/21>

Minor v. Happersett

Who was Minor?

Who was Happersett?

What was the case about?

Which Amendment did it involve?

Tinker v. Des Moines

Who was Tinker? (hint, more than one person)

Who/what was Des Moines?

What was the case about?

Which Amendment did it involve?

FINAL STEP

BOTH - U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

Date of Decision?

Did Minor win or lose?

U.S. Supreme Court in Washington, D.C.

Date of Decision?

Did Tinker win or lose?

STEP TWO

Supreme Court of the State of Missouri

Location (at the time)?

Date of Decision?

Did Minor win or lose?

U.S. Court of Appeals for the Eighth Circuit

Location?

Date of Decision?

Did Tinker win or lose?

STEP ONE

Circuit Court #5, Missouri State Court

Location (at the time)?

Date?

Did Minor win or lose?

U.S. District Court, Southern District of Iowa

Location?

Date?

Did Tinker win or lose?

Now answer the following questions:

- **First, go back and put a * by each part of the case that took place in St. Louis, Missouri.**
- **Which case started in the federal courts?**
- **Which case began in the state courts?**
- **How can a case from a state court ultimately be heard by the U.S. Supreme Court?**

These websites may help:

https://supremecourthistory.org/htcw_casesthecourthears.html

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/the-us-supreme-court/>

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/state-courts-vs-federal-courts/>

Women's Suffrage

In addition to Virginia Minor, over 100 women tried to vote in the 1872 election. One of those women was Susan B. Anthony, who was arrested and charged in a criminal case.

Visit these websites to learn about Susan B. Anthony's case, and to answer the following questions:

<http://famous-trials.com/anthony/444-home>

<http://famous-trials.com/anthony/445-chronology>

- **When and where was Susan B. Anthony charged with a crime?**
- **What was the crime?**
- **Was she found guilty or not guilty?**

See the Women's Suffrage timeline here:

https://www.americanbar.org/groups/public_education/programs/19th-amendment-centennial/toolkit/suffrage-timeline/

Or this one (requires a free account): <https://newseumed.org/tools/timeline/womens-suffrage-timeline>

- **Find and list at least 3 important things that occurred after Virginia Minor's and Susan B. Anthony's cases, but before the passage of the 19th Amendment in 1920 -**
 - 1.
 - 2.
 - 3.
 - **How can losing a case still have an important and positive impact?**
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Suffrage Amendments

Use this website to fill in the chart about the listed Amendments to the U.S. Constitution:

<https://www.archives.gov/founding-docs/amendments-11-27>

| Amendment | Year of Ratification? | For whom were voting rights extended or guaranteed? | Optional – Look at the dates and research on your own. What large national event or social movement was occurring in the United States in the period of time leading up to the passage of this amendment? |
|--|-----------------------|---|---|
| Amendment XV The Fifteenth Amendment | | | |
| Amendment XIX The Nineteenth Amendment | | | |
| Amendment XXIII The Twenty-Third Amendment | | | |
| Amendment XXIV The Twenty-Fourth Amendment | | | |
| Amendment XXVI The Twenty-Sixth Amendment | | | |

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Student Speech Cases

Visit this website to learn about student speech cases that have been decided in the time since the Tinker decision. For each case, write a few notes explaining what the case was about. Then, indicate whether the case expanded or restricted First Amendment rights.

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/your-1st-amendment-rights/>

| Case and Year | What was the case about? | Did the decision expand or restrict First Amendment Rights? | |
|---|--------------------------|---|----------|
| | | EXPAND | RESTRICT |
| <i>Bethel School District v. Fraser</i> , 1986 | | | |
| <i>Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier</i> , 1988 | | | |
| <i>Morse v. Frederick</i> , 2007 | | | |
| Describe a situation from your life or from current events to which you think this might apply. Why? | | | |

You Be the Judge

Take a moment to read the fictional scenario below.

Students Demand the Right to Vote at Age 16 to Save the Planet: Members of the Climate Club at West High School decided to join an upcoming national march calling for lowering the voting age to 16 in an effort to influence climate change policy. The officers planned a school walkout so that students could join the Voting Rights March on Earth Day. Club members sold T-shirts to students going to the march and to those who stayed in class. The best-selling slogans on the T-shirts read:

Sea Levels are Rising. Lower the Voting Age to 16.

Hey, Boomers, You Blew It. Let 16-Year-Olds Vote.

While a neighboring school district allowed students to take off one day during the school year to participate in service learning or social action, West's administration adopted a policy that prohibited such absences and other activities that "disrupt the learning environment."

When school officials saw the club's Twitter feed alerting students to the protest, they circulated a letter and robocall warning that disruptions would be dealt with by imposing detention on the offending students. School officials reported that class time recently had been lost due to heated discussions of students' views on the voting age and climate policy.

In response, the Climate Club announced on social media that students were going ahead with their two-pronged, Earth Day strategy – wearing protest T-shirts in class and/or walking out of school to join the march. However, not all students supported the strategy. The Honor Society flooded social media saying that student activists were hijacking class time to talk about the march and the voting age the week before high-stakes college entrance exams.

On Earth Day, students arrived on campus wearing the protest T-shirts and carrying signs that read: "Civic Action Isn't Disruptive, It IS my Civics Education." Some students had signs that read: "We Don't Shed Our Rights at the Schoolhouse Gate" a reference to the Supreme Court's 1969 decision in *Tinker v. Des Moines*, long considered the landmark case defining students' free speech rights at school.

The students who walked out of school and the students who wore the protest T-shirts in class received the same penalty – detention for the time equivalent of one school day. Some of the students from the walkout group and some from the classroom T-shirt group filed a lawsuit against the school district and the principal, claiming that the punishment violated their Constitutional free speech rights.

The school district and the principal argued that their actions did not violate the First Amendment and were necessary to maintain an orderly learning environment.

Pretend you are the judge. How would you rule in this case?

___ I would decide in favor of the students, because:

___ I would decide in favor of the school district and principal, because: