

Full Title of Your Paper Here

Your Name (First M. Last)

College of the Desert

Abstract

Begin typing your abstract paragraph here. This paragraph should not be indented. It should range between 100 and 250 words. After typing your abstract there should be a page break and the body of the paper will begin on the next page. This should be accurate, nonevaluative, readable, and concise. You can think of the abstract as a way to tell your reader what to expect: in brief, what your argument is, what sources you will use, how the paper is divided, and what conclusions you have drawn.

Keywords: Supreme Court, civil liberties, civil rights

Your Full Title of Your Paper

IF YOU DID WELL ON YOUR INTRO PARAGRAPH ASSIGNMENT, COPY AND PASTE IT HERE. Do pay attention to any grammatical or minor corrections I made, even if you scored high. If you did not do well or did not do the intro assignment, here are some tips: You MUST CLEARLY STATE YOUR THESIS AND YOU MUST BE SPECIFIC. **For this paper, a good thesis would be “I agree with the Supreme Court’s decision on (your chosen case) for the following reasons (which you need to briefly provide here).”** Remember, throughout the body of your paper, you should be referring back to your thesis and providing evidence and analysis that proves your thesis. It is recommended you use this template, including the subheadings if you have never done or need help with the APA format. Note that APA papers traditionally are broken up using subheadings. Below are *sample* subheadings (in bold). Throughout the body of the paper, you will see sample in-text citations that correspond to specific entries in the References page. Note that the pages and websites referenced are not specific to any assignment for this course. They are just there for you to see how APA in-text citations need to be done.

Summary of the Court Case

It is recommended that you use subheadings, which are standard in APA. That way, if you have trouble with transition sentences, at least I will know what you are talking about based on your subheading. Right now, I am just using this space to insert an in-text citation of the book; you must have in-text citations that correspond with the list of references at the end of the paper (Barbour and Wright, 2015, pg. 21).

The following is a sample in-text citation of an online *New York Times* article (see sample Reference page at the end of the document). Here is the sample (Chozick, 2015).

The Supreme Court's Decision

Note how the subheadings used address the prompt. Check out another sample in-text citation for a webpage (*Snyder v. Phelps*).

Assessment of the Supreme Court's Decision

Here is where you can flesh out your thesis. You should be able to use some of the facts presented in the sections above to help you assess whether or not you agree/disagree with the Court's decision. A good way to think about whether or not you agree with the Court's decision is to assess the constitutional arguments provided by the justices. Addressing the constitutionality of the decision will provide support for your core argument/thesis. Make sure that your thesis is also clearly stated in the introduction. Make sure to clearly explain your argument by evaluating the pros and cons you stated in the previous section.

Conclusion

Make sure your conclusion is more than a simple restatement of the facts and your thesis. You should restate your thesis but also clearly state the implications and consequences of this decision. That is, if you do not agree with the Court's decision, clearly explain which group(s) are the most negatively impacted and what can be done to minimize the negative consequences of the decision on this group/these groups. If you agree with the Court's decision, clearly explain which group(s) are positively impacted and explain how the Court's decision resulted in tangible benefits and positive outcomes for this group/these groups.

References (*in alphabetical order*)Sample: How to cite the textbook/books

Barbour, C. and Gerald Wright. (2015). *Keeping the Republic: Power and Citizenship in American Politics* (6th edition brief). Thousand Oaks, CA: CQ Press.

Sample: How to cite an online source with an author and date; if source has an author but no date, you can just put 'n.d.' in the parentheses:

Chozick, Amy. (2015, November 17). "Paris Attacks Complicate Hillary Clinton's Alignment With Obama." *New York Times*. Retrieved from http://www.nytimes.com/2015/11/18/us/politics/paris-attacks-complicate-hillary-clintons-alignment-with-obama.html?_r=0

Sample: How to cite an online source with no author/date (online encyclopedias and websites often don't provide author names/dates of publication):

Snyder v. Phelps (n.d.). In Oyez website. Retrieved from <https://www.oyez.org/cases/2010/09-751>