

We The People
“The Common Law Project (Fall 2019)”
Mr. Fernandez

- I. Goals and Objectives for the “Common Law Project”:
 - a. Students will...
 - i. Appreciate the significance of our English common law heritage.
 - ii. Understand and appreciate the American common law system.
 - iii. Gain a firm command of legal terminology
 - iv. Improve oratorical skills.
 - v. Develop a deep understanding of our constitution.
 - b. Students will...
 - i. Research a theme of the American legal system.
 - ii. Explain the history of chosen topic (back to England and early America).
 - iii. Submit a Power Point presentation in pdf format for review.
 - iv. Make a presentation to the class.
 - v. Be evaluated by the teacher according to the provided rubric.
 - vi. Receive feedback from peers.
- II. Directions:
 - a. You may work individually or with a partner for this assignment.
 - b. Select a topic from the following list:
 - i. Search and Seizure
 - ii. Cruel and Unusual Punishment
 - iii. Right to a Speedy Trial
 - iv. Right to a Jury Trial (criminal)
 - v. Speech and Debate Clause
 - vi. Right to a Jury Trial/ Double Jeopardy (civil)
 - vii. Right to Bear Arms
 - viii. Right to Confront Witnesses
 - ix. Establishment Clause
 - x. Free Exercise Clause
 - xi. The Necessary and Proper Clause
 - xii. Freedom of Assembly
 - xiii. Freedom of Expression
 - xiv. Freedom of Speech
 - xv. Right to an Attorney
 - xvi. Right to Remain Silent
 - xvii. Ex Post Facto Laws
 - xviii. Commerce Clause
 - xix. Freedom of the Press
 - xx. Procedural Due Process
 - xxi. Habeas Corpus
 - xxii. Impeachment Process
 - xxiii. Full Faith and Credit Clause
 - xxiv. Treason

- c. Conduct research from several types of sources (books, journals, periodicals, internet, etc.) on your chosen topic according to the requirements below in the school library:
- i. Explain where and how the chosen topic is presented in the Constitution (Article, Amendment, or maybe both).
 - ii. Under what circumstances did this topic make its way into the Constitution? Explain the history, tracing the topic back as far as you can in English common law to help the class understand its significance... see lecture on the website for assistance... also see Heritage Foundation link on the website.
 - iii. **Create a list of six cases in chronological order** - provide a brief explanation of three of them - and a detailed explanation of your favorite, or the most interesting, three cases. Include the following information:
 1. Brief cases(3): Name of the case, brief background, law under review, explain the basic decision of the court (include vote count), and brief significance of the decision.
 2. Detailed cases(3): Name of the case, detailed explanation of the story, how the case reached the court (through state or federal?), Majority, Dissenting, and Concurring Opinions briefly explained, significance of the decision - what precedent was set? Which specific law was under review? Law upheld or overturned? Include quotes from the Justices - at least one in Majority and one dissenting, if applicable.
 - iv. Create a Power Point presentation including all the above-mentioned information according to the following requirements:
 1. Presentation should last no longer than 20 minutes.
 2. No less than twenty slides - including the two listed below:
 - a. Introduction/ Title Page: Names, Class, Title of Project
 - b. Thesis Slide: Write a well-developed thesis statement.
 - c. Bibliography: MLA format, diversified sources on the list
 3. Must look professional - be accurate and creative!
 - a. Easy to read from back of the room.
 - b. Make use of interesting pictures, photos, charts, graphs, animations, sound effects, sound clips, video clips, etc.
 - c. At least ten of the above-mentioned effects to make your presentation more interesting.
 4. Slides should **provide an outline of information only**... too much information will discourage students from paying any attention.
 5. No one should read directly from the slides.
 6. **Note cards are required** for every student for the presentation.

III. Grading:

- a. This research project will count as your "Project Grade" on the Second Grading Quarter = 10% of your average (see syllabus) according to the following rubric:
 - i. Library Work/ Behavior: this will be evaluated on an individual basis - behavior should always be professional in the White Station High School Library = 10%
 - ii. Research: this will be determined by the degree to which your group accomplishes the stated goals of this project through case studies and research = 30%
 - iii. Power Point: according to the details provided above and not too detailed for the class to follow = 20%
 - iv. Presentation: each of you should present an equal portion of the project and come prepared with note cards - points will be deducted individually for reading directly from the Power Point... use note cards = 30%
 - v. Creativity: these points will be reserved for the groups who capture the attention of the class with the presentation and successfully teach the significance of the selected topic, in other words, what has your group done to stand out from the rest = 10%