

AP U.S. Government and Politics: Required Supreme Court Cases

Court Case	Constitutional Argument	Main Points
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)	Article I (Necessary and Proper Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congress has implied powers necessary to implement its enumerated powers - Constitution and federal laws were supreme over state laws
United States v. Lopez (1995)	Article I (Necessary and Proper Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Congress cannot use the use the Commerce Clause to make possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime
Baker v. Carr (1961)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equal Protection Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Redistricting qualifies as a justiciable question - "One person, one vote" doctrine
Shaw v. Reno (1993)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equal Protection Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No racial gerrymandering
Marbury v. Madison (1803)	Article III Section II	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Principle of judicial review
Engel v. Vitale	First Amendment (Establishment Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - No state-sanctioned voluntary prayer in public schools
Wisconsin v. Yoder	First Amendment (Free Exercise Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The state cannot compel school attendance beyond the eighth grade
Tinker v. Des Moines Independent Community School District (1969)	First Amendment (Freedom of Speech)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Students keep their First Amendment rights at school - Symbolic speech is protected by the First Amendment
Schenck v. United States (1919)	First Amendment (Freedom of Speech)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Speech that present a "clear and present danger" are not protected by the First Amendment

New York Times Co. v. United States (1971)	First Amendment (Freedom of the Press)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The First Amendment right of free press could be protected against the idea of prior restraint
District of Columbia v. Heller (2008)	Second Amendment (Right to Bear Arms)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Second Amendment protects the right to keep firearms in the home for the purpose of self-defense
McDonald v. Chicago (2010)	Second Amendment (Right to Bear Arms) Fourteenth Amendment (Due Process Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Second Amendment right to bear arms for self-defense is fundamental, and therefore incorporated to the states through the Due Process Clause
Mapp v. Ohio (1961)	Fourth Amendment (Protection Against Illegal Search and Seizure)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Evidence obtained by searches and seizures in violation of the Fourth Amendment is inadmissible in state court - Exclusionary rule
Miranda v. Arizona (1966)	Fifth Amendment (Protection Against Self-Incrimination)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Fifth Amendment's protection against self-incrimination extends to police interrogation - The police must inform suspects of their right to remain silent and to obtain an attorney - Miranda Law
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	Sixth Amendment (Right to Legal Counsel) Fourteenth Amendment (Due Process Clause)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - The Sixth Amendment's right to counsel in criminal cases applies to criminal defendants in state courts due to the Fourteenth Amendment
Roe v. Wade (1973)	Fourteenth Amendment (Due Process Clause) First, Fourth, Fifth, Ninth, and Fourteenth Amendments (Right to Privacy)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> - A woman's decision to have an abortion fell under the right of privacy and was thus protected - Limits on abortion in the second and third trimester were allowed

Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equal Protection Clause)	- Separate but equal facilities did not violate the Equal Protection Clause
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equal Protection Clause)	- "... in the field of public education, separate but equal has no place."
Obergefell v. Hodges (2015)	Fourteenth Amendment (Due Process Clause and Equal Protections Clause)	- States cannot deny same-sex couples the fundamental right to marry
Grutter v. Bollinger (2003)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equation Protection Clause) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)	- Affirmative action is allowed when race is only one factor considered in creating a diverse student body
Gratz v. Bollinger (2003)	Fourteenth Amendment (Equation Protection Clause) Civil Rights Act of 1964 (Title VI)	- Affirmative is not allowed when it takes the form of a points- or quota-based system - There must be individual consideration of each applicant