

## ***MID-TERM INTERACTIVE ASSIGNMENT***

50 points (of your total 500 points for the final grade) shall be based on the following assignment:

The starting point for this assignment is [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org) This is a fantastic site devoted to U. S. Supreme Court cases.

For this assignment, you must choose a U.S. Supreme Court case that is posted to [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org) Once you have chosen your case, you are to read the parties briefs, review the lawyers involved, and LISTEN TO THE ENTIRE ORAL ARGUMENT (which is posted online). Thereafter, you are to write a Report outlining the facts, the important issues, the rule or rules of law, and the conclusion reached by the Court in the case.

Please note that earlier postings have the advantage of "locking" up a case posted to Oyez. Once a student has posted his or her COMPLETE Report, no other student can post on the same case. Furthermore, there is no "saving" of any case by posting an earlier message saying that you are going to be using a particular case for your Report.

### **PROCEDURE FOR THE MID-TERM INTERACTIVE ASSIGNMENT:**

The above assignment is very similar to the MANDATORY ASSIGNMENT you must post for each exam. Again, I am requiring this Mid-Term Interactive Assignment to expose you to U. S. Supreme Court Decisions and generate "classroom discussions" regarding these important cases. You should note that I deem these assignments as the equivalent of "class participation" in an off-line class and believe they are a necessary component in delivering this course to you on-line.

Therefore, prior to 11:00 a.m. on the opening date for Exam 2, you must post your FULL AND COMPLETE Mid-Term Interactive Assignment Report to the Bulletin Board. You may post as soon as you would like but the deadline for posting your Mid-Term Interactive Assignment Report is no later than the opening date and time for Exam 2. This portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment is worth up to 25 points. If you fail to comply with this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment, you will not earn any of the 25 points available for this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment towards your final grade in this course.

Moreover, you have up to and including the deadline for Exam 2 to post your responses to other classmates Mid-Term Interactive Assignment Report postings or any inquiries I make regarding your Report. This portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment is worth up to the other 25 points allocated to the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment. If you fail to comply with this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment, you will not earn any of the 25 points available for this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment towards your final grade in this course.

As you can see, for the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment, up to 25 points (of the available 50 points for the Assignment) is based on your individual posting of the case Report you have chosen from a case on [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org). Remember, the deadline for this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment is 11:00 a.m. on the day Exam 2 opens.

Moreover, up to a maximum of the remaining 25 points (of the available 50 points for the Assignment) is based on your participation on the bulletin board discussing other classmate postings/Reports from the case they have chosen and your response to any inquiries from me or your classmates on the case you have chosen. Also, the deadline for this portion of the Mid-Term Interactive Assignment is 11:00 a.m. on the day Exam 2 closes.

Remember, to prevent duplication, you must choose your case from [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org) and post your COMPLETE Report no later than the deadline described above. Furthermore, you may not choose a case that has already been posted by one of your classmates (make sure you continually review the Bulletin Board to ensure that you do not duplicate another person's posting). Obviously, earlier postings have the advantage of greater choice among the cases reported at [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org) but there are more than enough cases available to enable you to make a unique and timely posting of your Report.

**ALSO, YOU MUST COMPLY WITH THE FOLLOWING BULLETIN BOARD PROCEDURES (INCLUDING YOUR NAME IN THE SUBJECT LINE):**

When you are posting your original Mid-Term Interactive Assignment Report, go to the Bulletin Board and click on "Compose Message." Thereafter, make sure you choose the MID-TERM INTERACTIVE ASSIGNMENT topic area. Also, in the Subject Line put the following:

YOUR NAME and the Supreme Court Case name

Thereafter, fill-in the Message area (NO ATTACHMENTS) with your full Report and post it to the Bulletin Board.

When responding to other classmate original Mid-Term Interactive Assignment Reports or questions posed by me, simply click on "Reply" and then post your response.

By following the above, a thread will be created for each of you with both your original Report posting and classmates responses (and your reply to those responses).

This will make it easier to follow on the Bulletin Board and easier for me to grade.

**FAIR WARNING!** You must follow the above procedure or I will treat your posting as if you did not complete the assignment.

As always, I am looking for your personal analysis and discussions. Simply posting materials that appear on [www.oyez.org](http://www.oyez.org), other web pages, or in the text is not enough. In

fact, if you post materials that you have found in other places, please identify those materials and web locations. Thereafter, I would like to see your analysis or discussion regarding those materials.

Please note that I recognize that this particular assignment may have some "hot button" issues. However, as always, you must maintain a professional and courteous tone as you discuss these issues. The best lawyers know that reasonable people can disagree. I have no problem with respectful disagreements inside the postings or discussions. However, I will not tolerate any abusive or strong language and any position you put forward must be supported by your research material.

Good Luck!

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