In this session, students explore the history of the Supreme Court and landmark Supreme Court cases from *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) to the Roberts Court. This is a great session for students to preview and investigate the Supreme Court cases to encourage further study of government.
The Supreme Court has been at the center of some of the most important constitutional debates in American history. Over time, the Court’s landmark decisions have shaped constitutional law across a range of areas, including the powers of the national government, the meaning of the Constitution’s promise of freedom and equality, and the balance of power between the national government and the states.
WHAT IS A LANDMARK CASE?

A landmark case is a court case that is studied because it has historical and legal significance. The most significant cases are those that have had a lasting effect on the application of a certain law, often concerning your individual rights and liberties.
HOW DO COURTS CASES AFFECT LAW?

Though the judicial branch doesn’t directly make laws, the courts interpret laws through the cases brought before them. The American legal system is a Common Law system, which means that judges base their decisions on previous court rulings in similar cases. Therefore, previous decisions by a higher court are binding, and become part of the law.
Scholar Exchange: Canonical and Landmark Supreme Court Cases

**SUPREME COURT FOUNDATIONS**

- *Marbury v. Madison* (1803)
- *McCulloch v. Maryland* (1819)
MARBURY V. MADISON (1803)
MCCULLOCH V. MARYLAND (1819)

The Second Bank of the United States
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

- *Dred Scott v. Sanford* (1857)
- *Plessy v. Ferguson* (1896)
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

DRED SCOTT V. SANDFORD (1857)

Dred and Harriet Scott
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

PLESSY V. FERGUSON (1896)

Image: Durham, North Carolina Bus Station, 1940. (Library of Congress)
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

BROWN V. BOARD OF EDUCATION (1954)
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

REGENTS OF UNIVERSITY OF CALIFORNIA
V. BAKKE (1978)

Image: Protest against the California Supreme Court’s decision in Bakke, Los Angeles, May 7, 1977
(Archives of the University of California)
CONSTITUTION’S PROMISE OF EQUALITY

OBERGEFELL V. HODGES (2015)

Scholar Exchange: Canonical and Landmark Supreme Court Cases
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE CONSTITUTION

• *Lochner v. New York* (1905)
• *Roe v. Wade* (1973)
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE CONSTITUTION

LOCHNER V. NEW YORK (1905)
FUNDAMENTAL RIGHTS AND THE CONSTITUTION

ROE V. WADE (1973)
THE BILL OF RIGHTS

• *Schenck v. United States* (1919)
• *West Virginia v. Barnette* (1943)
• *Mapp v. Ohio* (1961)
THE BILL OF RIGHTS

SCHENCK V. UNITED STATES (1919)

ANTI-WAR PROTEST AT U.S. CAPITAL BUILDING, 1917
THE BILL OF RIGHTS

WEST VIRGINIA V. BARNETTE (1943)
THE BILL OF RIGHTS

MAPP V. OHIO (1961)

Dollree "Dolly" Mapp
THE BILL OF RIGHTS

KELO V. CITY OF NEW LONDON (2005)

Suzette Kelo
BATTLES OVER PRESIDENTIAL POWER

• Korematsu v. United States (1944)
• Youngstown Sheet & Tube v. Sawyer (1952)
BATTLES OVER PRESIDENTIAL POWER

KOREMATSU V. UNITED STATES (1944)

Fred Korematsu
BATTLES OVER PRESIDENTIAL POWER

YOUNGSTOWN SHEET & TUBE V. SAWYER (1952)
BATTLES OVER PRESIDENTIAL POWER

U.S. V. NIXON (1974)

President Richard Nixon
THE CONSTITUTION IN THE SCHOOL

THE CONSTITUTION IN THE SCHOOL

TINKER V. DES MOINES (1969)

Mary Beth and John Tinker
THE CONSTITUTION IN THE SCHOOL

NEW JERSEY V. T.L.O. (1985)
HAZELWOOD SCHOOL DISTRICT V. KUHLMEIER (1988)