

Case about Checks and Balances and Separation of Powers

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
Marbury v. Madison (1803)	Used the Judicial Branch's inherent power from Article III of the Constitution to establish judicial review as constitutional affirming checks and balances and separation of powers

Cases about Federalism

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
McCulloch v. Maryland (1819)	Used the supremacy clause from Article VI of the Constitution to affirm the supremacy of the federal government and the US Constitution over the states and state laws Used the necessary and proper clause to justify Congress' establishment of the national ba
United States v. Lopez (1995)	Congress may not use the commerce clause, Article I Section 8, to make possession of a gun in a school zone a federal crime

Cases about the Bill of Rights, balance between power of government and individual liberties

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
Engel v. Vitale (1962)	School sponsorship of religious activities violates the establishment clause in the 1st amendment
Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)	Forcing Amish students to attend school past 8th grade violates the free exercise clause of the 1st amendment
Tinker v. Des Moines School District (1969)	Public school students retain 1st amendment freedom of speech/expression while on campus, as long as it doesn't "disrupt the learning environment"
New York Times v. United States (1971)	Ensures freedom of press clause of the 1st amendment by limiting prior restraint except in most extreme cases of national security
Schenk v. US (1919)	Speech that represents a "clear and present danger" is not protected speech under the freedom of speech clause in the 1st amendment

Cases about Selective Incorporation via the 14th amendment's *due process clause*

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
Gitlow v. New York (1925)	The first case that used the selective incorporation doctrine, using the due process clause of the 14th amendment to extend the Bill of Rights protections to states
Gideon v. Wainwright (1963)	Used the 6th amendment to decide that those who cannot afford an attorney will be provided with one, incorporated to the states via the due process clause of the 14th amendment.
Roe v. Wade (1973)	Used the 4th amendment's right to privacy to rule that states could not prevent women from having abortions, incorporated to the states via the due process clause of the 14th amendment.
McDonald v. Chicago (2010)	The 2nd amendment prevents states from limiting gun ownership for self-protection, incorporated to the states via the due process clause of the 14th amendment.

Cases about the 14th amendment's *equal protection clause* supports equality of individuals

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
Plessy v. Ferguson (1896)	a landmark Supreme Court case that upheld racial segregation under the "separate but equal" doctrine. The Court ruled that segregated public facilities for Black and white Americans were constitutional, reinforcing systemic racism and legitimizing Jim Crow laws until the decision was overturned in 1954.
Brown v. Board of Education (1954)	School segregation violates the equal protection clause of the 14th amendment - overturned Plessy v. Ferguson's separate but equal doctrine

Cases about campaigning, election rules, and redistricting

Case	Precedent and Constitutional Reasoning
Baker v. Carr (1961)	Used the equal protection clause in the 14th amendment to apply to redistricting - established "one person one vote" doctrine
Shaw v. Reno (1993)	Used equal protection clause in the 14th amendment to prohibit states from racial gerrymandering
Buckley v. Valeo (1976)	Used the 1st amendment freedom of speech clause to rule that campaign donations were protected expression and cannot be limited by the government
Citizen United v. Federal Election Commission (2010)	Political spending by corporations and organizations is protected speech under the 1st amendment and cannot be limited by government