

Freedom of religion court cases

Directions:

Have students choose (or assign them) one of the following court cases relevant to freedom of religion to research.

- Cantwell v. Connecticut (1940)
- Minersville School District v. Gobitis (1940)
- Engel v. Vitale (1962)
- Sherbert v. Verner (1963)
- Wisconsin v. Yoder (1972)
- Widmar v. Vincent (1981)
- Employment Division, Department of Human Resources, Oregon v. Smith (1990)
- Church of Lukumi Babalu Aye v. City of Hialeah (1993)
- Rosenberger v. Rector and Visitors of the University of Virginia (1995)
- Board of Regents, University of Wisconsin System v. Southworth (2000)
- Christian Legal Society v. Martinez (2010)

Work individually, then form groups to present before the class:

1. List the preliminary facts of the case (dates decided and argued, people/parties involved, location).
2. Briefly describe the issue(s)/legal principle(s) and arguments for both sides.
3. What was the outcome of the case and justification(s) for the decision?
4. Describe the significance of the case and if a legal precedent was set or overturned.

Resources:

[FIRE's Religious Liberty on Campus](#)

[Middle Tennessee State University's First amendment Encyclopedia](#)

