**Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier (1988)**

A high school newspaper printed two articles which the principal of the school, Robert E. Reynolds, thought were inappropriate and too controversial. One article was about teen pregnancy, and the other was about the impact of divorce on students. Mr. Reynolds had the articles removed from the student newspaper, believing that they might violate privacy rights and be too disruptive to the educational process. The student editors sued the principal and the Hazelwood School District, arguing that their First Amendment rights under the Constitution had been violated.

1. You are the Supreme Court. Consider the case. How do you rule? Why?

**Boroff v. Ven Wert City Board of Education (1997)**

In 1997, Nicholas J. Boroff, a senior at Ven Wert High School in Ven Wert, Ohio, wore a Marilyn Manson t-shirt to school. The front of the shirt depicted a three-faced Jesus, and the back of the shirt said, “believe” with the letters “lie” highlighted in the middle of the word (“be**lie**ve”). A school administrator told Boroff that the shirt was offensive, and Boroff was told to either turn the shirt inside-out , go home and change, or leave school for the day and be considered truant (skipping school). Boroff left. He returned the next four school days, each day wearing a different Marilyn Manson t-shirt. Each day, he was told that he could not attend class wearing the shirt he had on. Boroff sued, saying that school officials violated his constitutional rights to free speech and due process. A federal judge heard the case and ruled in favor of the school district. The 6th U.S. Court of Appeals agreed with the lower court.

1. You are the Supreme Court. Consider the case. How do you rule? Why?

**West Virginia Board of Education v. Barnette (1943)**

On January 9th, 1942, the West Virginia State Board of Education ordered that the salute of the American flag become a daily activity in all public schools. They further required that **all** students and teachers participate in the salute, which included standing and reciting the Pledge of Allegiance. The Board also stated that refusal to salute the flag would be regarded as an act of insubordination and would be dealt with accordingly.

Students of the Jehovah’s Witness faith refused to salute the flag. They were of the religious belief that saluting a flag was a violation of the Ten Commandments and that it was a form of idol worship. These students were warned and ultimately expelled from school for their failure to follow school policy.

1. You are the Supreme Court. Consider the case. How do you rule? Why?

**Pyle v. School Committee of South Hadley (1996)**

Jeffery Pyle wore a shirt to gym class that his mother had given him. The shirt said, “Coed Naked Band: Do It To The Rhythm”. The shirt featured an illustration of closely intertwined musical instruments. Both teachers and multiple students complained about the shirt, saying that is was offensive and sexually harassing. When school administrators saw the shirt, they said that it was vulgar and sent the student home for violating school policy. Mr. Pyle sued the school district for violating his First Amendment right to freedom of expression.

1. You are the Supreme Court. Consider the case. How do you rule? Why?

**Melton v. Young (1972)**

Rob Melton, a student at Brainerd High School in Chattanooga, Tennessee, was suspended after wearing a jacket on which a Confederate flag was sewn on the sleeve. Prior to the incident, the school had experienced a series of fights and other disturbances over the school’s use of the Confederate flag as an official school symbol. In response to these disturbances, the school had decided to drop the controversial flag from all school functions. Rob Melton, as a protest of this decision, had worn his jacket to school. School officials explained that he was sent home because they anticipated that his jacket might cause a disturbance and interfere with learning at the school.

1. You are the Supreme Court. Consider the case. How do you rule? Why?

**Scenario A**

Two letters to the editor have been submitted to the newspaper. One claims that the Ku Klux Klan is “no longer a violent organization” and that interracial dating is bad for the school’s reputation. The other letter supports keeping the white race “pure” and refers readers to a known white supremacy group.

1. You are the principal of the school. Do you allow these letters to be printed in the school paper? Why or Why not?

**Scenario B**

A group of students has begun circulating an underground newspaper that includes a parody of an advice column which offers advice like “Go ahead, sleep with him” and “Who cares?”. They have also used the school’s paper and copy machine to print their newspaper.

1. You are the principal of the school. Do you allow this newspaper to be distributed on campus? Why or why not?