**Writing a Legal Opinion**

Review the following two cases (in your text and online):

* [Tinker v. Des Moines Independent School District, 1969](http://www.oyez.org/cases/1960-1969/1968/1968_21)
* [U.S. v. American Library Association, 2003](http://www.oyez.org/cases/2000-2009/2002/2002_02_361)

Choose one on which to write a legal opinion, which is to be a minimum of five paragraphs, which will include the following:

* Paragraph 1 - Brief introduction to the case.  Provide historical context, include background story and identify petitioners and respondents.
* Paragraph 2 - Identify central constitutional issue(s) of the case.  Cite the Constitution in this portion of your opinion.
* Paragraph 3 - Discuss specific arguments made by petitioners.
* Paragraph 4 - Discuss specific arguments made by respondents.
* Paragraph 5 - Develop your own opinion about the outcome of the case.  Refer to and cite at least one source other than the Constitution (another course case, news article, research statistics).  Do not just summarize the actual outcome.  Share you opinion and the support you provide for that opinion.  Make sure to refer to and properly cite portions of the U.S. Constitution in your final remarks.

**Grading Rubric:**

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| **Grade** | **Assignment Contains:** |
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| 9-10 | Thoughtful, original work.   Well organized with several well-reasoned and supported arguments.   Multiple outside sources, properly cited.   Numerous references to the Constitution.   Work is proofed and errors in writing mechanics are not apparent. |
| 8 | Thoughtful, original work.   Well organized with well-supported arguments.   One or two outside sources, properly cited.   References to Constitution included.   Minor errors in writing mechanics may be evident. |
| 7 | Thoughtful work.   Well organized with reasonable arguments.   References to Constitution included.   Some errors in writing mechanics may be evident. |
| 6 | Minimal thought or effort evident.   No continuity of thought or argument.   Difficulty interpreting purpose and meaning of this argument.   Several errors in writing mechanics. |
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