

Supreme Court Decision

WRITING THE MAJORITY OPINION

The U.S. Supreme Court has completed its conference in the case of _____ v. _____. You have already read briefs from the lawyers of both the plaintiff and respondent, and from *amicus curiae* (friends of the court) in favor of each side. You have also listened to the oral arguments of both the plaintiff and respondent. The majority of Justices have voted on the side of _____. The others voted on the side of _____. You plan to vote in agreement with the majority and the Chief Justice has granted you the privilege of writing the majority opinion.

MAJORITY OPINION: Write the decision of the Court. Briefly state the facts of the case, the legal issue presented to the court, the applicable law, the reasoning the court used in deciding the case, and the final decision as it applies to these parties.

WRITING A DISSENTING OPINION

The U.S. Supreme Court has completed its conference in the case of _____ v. _____. You have already read briefs from the lawyers of both the plaintiff and respondent, and from *amicus curiae* (friends of the court) in favor of each side. You have also listened to the oral arguments of both the prosecution and defense. The majority of Justices have voted on the side of _____. The others voted on the side of _____. You disagree with their result and with their reasoning, and decide to write a dissenting opinion.

DISSENTING OPINION: Briefly write the dissenting opinion of the case. Be sure to highlight the facts of the case, applicable law, reasoning of the court, and why you disagree with the court's decision, including alternative reasoning.