

# The Warren Court

Read each of the cases below. Complete the graphic organizer that follows.

## **Engel v. Vitale (1962)**

In 1960, the New York State Board of Regents passed a regulation requiring that all public schools say a prayer at the beginning of the school day. It went as follows:

*“Almighty God, we acknowledge our dependence upon Thee, and we beg Thy blessings upon us, our parents, our teachers and our Country.”*

Students who did not wish to say it could choose to remain silent or stand outside the room, and face no penalty. Parents in the Herricks school district challenged the constitutionality of schools leading the prayer in the landmark Supreme Court case *Engel v. Vitale*.

## **Miranda v. Arizona (1966)**

The case of *Miranda v. Arizona* is a famous and important legal case. The decision of *Miranda v. Arizona* led to the creation of something very important that is practiced to this day. The case of *Miranda v. Arizona* took place in the state of Arizona when a young man named Ernesto Miranda was arrested after being accused of raping a female in 1963. When Ernesto Miranda was apprehended he was given a piece of paper that asked for his formal confession. Miranda refused to sign the paper. After this refusal, Miranda was interrogated by the police for over 2 hours. During the interrogation, Miranda confessed to the crime. However, Miranda’s legal aids (his lawyers and attorneys) argued that the arresting officers did not make the man aware of his rights at the time he was arrested. In addition to this, the lawyers argued that the police neglected to advise Miranda of his right to remain silent so that he would not incriminate himself. The right to remain silent means that during the time of arrest the individual being arrested can keep quiet. This option allows the individual to avoid getting himself in trouble.

After he was charged with rape, Ernesto Miranda appealed the sentence and brought his case to the United States Supreme Court. The Supreme Court accepted the case to review whether the police officers did not follow protocol and refused to inform the arrested man of his rights.

The foundation of the *Miranda v. Arizona* case is found in the Constitution. The 5th Amendment to the United States Constitution requires suspects of crimes to be informed of their rights during an arrest, including the right to remain silent. In addition, the 6th Amendment to the United States Constitution guarantees that an individual be informed of their right to a fair hearing after they are arrested.

### **Tinker v. Des Moines (1969)**

The *Tinker v. Des Moines* court case is one of the most groundbreaking trials in the history of the United States. The case involves 3 minors—John Tinker, Mary Beth Tinker and Christopher Eckhart—who were each suspended from their schools for wearing black armbands to protest the Vietnam War.

The students believed the black armbands were protected under the 1st Amendment to the United States Constitution, which guarantees the right of free speech and expression.

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<b>Case</b>	<b>What action or practice of the police or school is being challenged?</b>	<b>What amendment is involved? What rights are involved?</b>	<b>Do you think the action of the government (police or school) is constitutional? Explain.</b>
<b>Engel v. Vitale</b>			
<b>Miranda v. Arizona</b>			
<b>Tinker v. Des Moines</b>			