**Meet the Press: Political Round Table Discussion
Is the Supreme Court the best governmental institution**

**to decide issues of civil rights?**

You have been invited to appear on the national news show *Meet the Press* to discuss your views on the question of whether the Supreme Court is the best institution to decide issues of civil rights, examining three major cases and three minority groups. You will be representing a specific point of view and debating with others who agree and disagree with you. In order to prepare for your appearance, you need to become familiar with the issue and perspective you are assigned as the entire class will rely on your knowledge to learn various points of view on this important question.

|  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Rnd 1 | Group 1 | Yes, the Supreme Court’s *Brown v. BOE* decision played a crucial role in pushing for civil rights | Group 2 | No, the Supreme Court’s *Brown v. BOE* decision did not play a crucial role in pushing for civil rights |
| Rnd 2 | Group 3 | Yes, the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision played a crucial role in pushing for civil rights | Group 4 | No, the Supreme Court’s *Roe v. Wade* decision did not play a crucial role in pushing for civil rights |
| Rnd 3 | Group 5 | Yes, the Supreme Court’s *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision played a crucial role in pushing for civil rights | Group 6 | No, the Supreme Court’s *Obergefell v. Hodges* decision did not play a crucial role in pushing for civil rights |

Each group will consist of five critical members with a unique responsibility:

* Legal Scholar (1): Present a prepared opening statement providing the key argument and at least three reasons to support your position on the question.
* Legal Scholar (2): Present a prepared closing statement providing the key argument and at least three reasons to support your position on the question.
* Political Pundit (3): Answer questions from opponents to defend your position.
* Political Pundit (4): Ask questions of opponents to show weakness in their position.
* Graphic Artist: Provide and explain a graphic to highlight key data and/or arguments to support your group’s position. This could be charts, statistics, political cartoon, visual metaphor, etc.

In each round, the two perspectives will sit at the table with the moderator. For example, group 1 will debate group 2 in round #1. The Legal Scholar will present their opening statement followed by the pundits asking questions to their opposing group. The pundits and graphic artists will collaborate about when the graphic artist strategically reveal their visual aid to bolster their defense against criticisms the group is receiving. The moderator will eventually call for the Legal Scholar to present the closing statement before going to commercial break. After a commercial break, the next round will begin.