



*Now, let's take a look at two significant Supreme Court cases that help explain the Civil Rights Movement, especially in this class for the next couple of days:*

**Case: Plessy v. Ferguson**

**Location:** New Orleans, Louisiana

**Year:** 18 May **1896**

**Summary:** A bi-racial man, Homer Plessy, challenged a Louisiana law that called for “separate but equal” public facilities for the whites and blacks. The Supreme Court voted 8-1 that “separate but equal” was constitutional (legal). This ruling was extended to include schools.

your thoughts/questions on *Plessy*?

your thoughts/questions on *Brown*?

**Case: Brown v. Board of Education**

**Location:** Topeka, Kansas

**Year:** 31 May **1955**

**Summary:** The Supreme Court voted 9-0 to make racial segregation unconstitutional (illegal). An important point was that public facilities should desegregate in a reasonable time. This case reversed the Plessy v. Ferguson ruling that established the principle of “separate but equal”.