

Judge Damon Keith-Crusader for Justice

Lesson Plan

Title: “Judge Keith’s Constitution Solutions”

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Lesson Overview: This lesson focuses on some of Judge Keith’s cases and how he used the Constitution to make decisions. Students will research certain case/cases and review amendments to make connections like Judge Keith did to determine if/how cases were constitutional.

Objectives:

S.W. be able to identify amendments in the Constitution and their meaning. (Primarily 1, 4, 13, 14, 15) Also the Civil Rights Act of 1964

S.W. relate cases to the amendments and their constitutionality.

Standards: (Constitution Day activities and lessons are required by the Federal Government.)

C3.1.3 Analyze the purposes, organization, functions and processes of the judicial branch as enumerated in Article III of the Constitution.

C2.2.2 Explain and evaluate how Americans either through individual or collective actions, use constitutional principles and fundamental values, to narrow gaps between American ideals and reality with respect to minorities, women and the disadvantaged.

Time Required: 3-4 50 min class periods (depending)

Recommended Grade Level(s): 9-12

Topic(s): Constitution Day Lesson and Activity (September 17th)

Eras: 7&8

Preparation: Students and teacher would read and discuss cases decided by Judge Keith and identify how he determined their constitutionality. **Teachers may choose to focus on one case.

Materials/Resources:

- Crusader for Justice/or excerpts- Peter Hammer and Trevor Coleman
- Textbook copy of Constitution and Amendments
- Board
- Computers

Procedure: Steps- Single case: Using chapters 15-23, teacher can pre-select a case discussed in the book.

Cases to select from: (there are others)

Chapter 15- Davis v. School District of Pontiac (14th amendment)

Chapter 16-Garrett v. City of Hamtramck (13th and 14th amendments)

Chapter 17-Wiretapping decision with President Nixon (4th amendment)

Chapter 18- Baker v. the City of Detroit (Civil Rights Act 1964)

Chapter 20-Firefighters for Fair Hiring Practices v. City of Cleveland (14th amendment)

Procedures for 1 court case lesson: (1-2 class periods)

- Identify September 17, 1787 as Constitution Day (State of MI. requires observance of this day in all school districts.)
- Review or identify parts/sections of the Constitution- Preamble, Articles (7) and Amendments (27)
- Note that Article 3 gives power to the Judicial Branch of government. (Review the branches and levels of government) Branches-Legislative (Article 1), Executive (Article 2) and Judicial (Article 3)
- Read and discuss book version of case background, students to review amendments and discuss how the amendment fits the case.
- In journals write their reaction to Judge Keith's decision and the case outcome.

Lesson Variation: 2. Compare how two cases can relate to the same Amendment. Students may write comparison or complete a Venn diagram relating the cases. (Example given) ideas- housing, employment, certain races, equality...

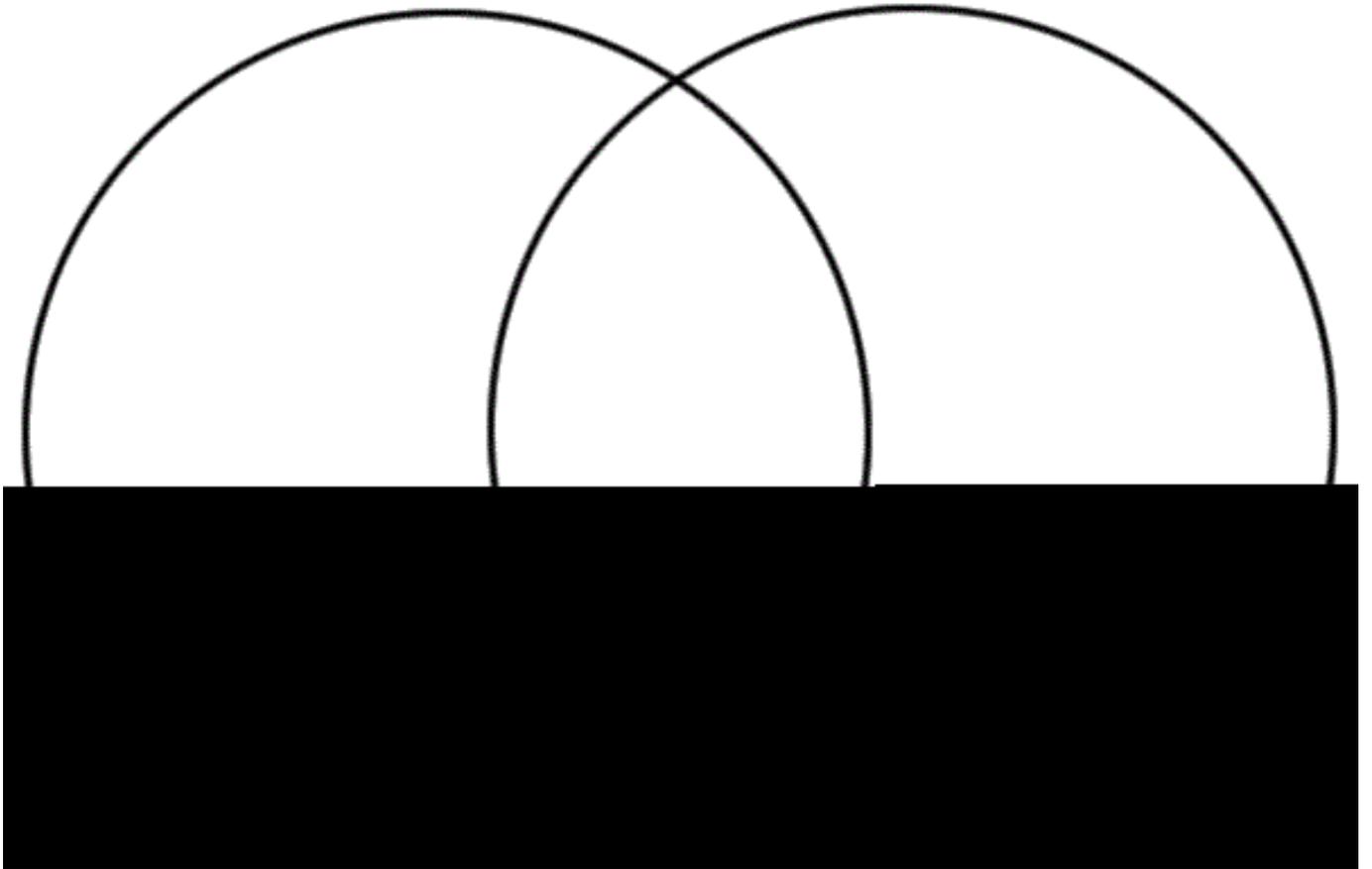
Lesson Variation: 3. Assign different cases to groups of four. Have students present (written or oral presentations) the sides of each of those concerned judge, plaintiff, and defendant.

Lesson Variation: 4. Select current events case/s and determine which amendments might be used as reference for the cases.

Extension Activities: Use variations.

Evaluation: Base evaluations on the selected variation. Teachers may decide to give a participation grade as Constitution Day activities may be limited to one day. Diagrams and writing entries may be graded on the teacher's classroom scale.

Judge Damon Keith's Constitution Solutions



Civil Rights

Civil Rights Act of 1964

The Civil Rights Act of 1964 was one of the most important civil rights laws in the history of the United States. It outlawed discrimination, ended racial segregation, and protected the voting rights of minorities and women.



President Lyndon Johnson signing the law

Background

The [Declaration of Independence](#) declared that "All men are created equal." However, when the country was first formed this quote didn't apply to everyone, only to wealthy white landowners. Over time, things did improve. The slaves were set free after the Civil War and both women and non-white people were given the right to vote with the 15th and the 19th amendments.

Despite these changes, however, there were still people who were being denied their basic civil rights. Jim Crow laws in the south allowed for racial segregation and discrimination based on gender, race, and religion was legal. Throughout the 1950s and early 1960s leaders such as Martin Luther King, Jr. fought for the civil rights of all people. Events such as the March on Washington, the Montgomery Bus Boycott, and the Birmingham Campaign brought these issues to the forefront of American politics. A new law was needed to protect the civil rights of all people.

President John F. Kennedy

On June 11, 1963 [President John F. Kennedy](#) gave a speech calling for a civil rights law that would give "all Americans the right to be served in facilities that are open to the public" and

would offer "greater protection for the right to vote." President Kennedy began to work with Congress to create a new civil rights bill. However, Kennedy was assassinated on November 22, 1963 and President Lyndon Johnson took over.



Civil Rights leaders meeting with President Johnson

Signed into Law

[President Johnson](#) also wanted a new civil rights bill to be passed. He made the bill one of his top priorities. After working the bill through the House and the Senate, President Johnson signed the [bill into law](#) on July 2, 1964.

Main Points of the Law

The law was divided up into 11 sections called titles.

- Title I - The voting requirements must be the same for all people.
- Title II - Outlawed discrimination in all public places such as hotels, restaurants, and theatres.
- Title III - Access to public facilities could not be denied based on race, religion, or national origin.
- Title IV - Required that public schools no longer be segregated.
- Title V - Gave more powers to the Civil Rights Commission.
- Title VI - Outlawed discrimination by government agencies.
- Title VII - Outlawed discrimination by employers based on race, gender, religion, or national origin.
- Title VIII - Required that voter data and registration information be provided to the government.
- Title IX - Allowed civil rights lawsuits to be moved from local courts to federal courts.
- Title X - Established the Community Relations Service.
- Title XI - Miscellaneous.

Voting Rights Act

A year after the Civil Rights Act was signed into law, another law called the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was passed. This law was meant to insure that the right to vote was not denied any person "on account of race or color."

Interesting Facts about the Civil Rights Act of 1964

- A higher percentage of republicans (80%) in the House voted in favor of the law than democrats (63%). Same thing occurred in the Senate where 82% of republicans voted in favor versus 69% of democrats.
- The Equal Pay Act of 1963 said that men and women should be paid the same money for doing the same job.
- Southern democrats were staunchly against the bill and filibustered for 83 days.
- Most voting requirements beyond age and citizenship were eliminated by the Voting Rights Act.
- Martin Luther King, Jr. attended the official signing-in of the law by President Johnson.

http://www.ducksters.com/history/civil_rights/civil_rights_act_of_1964.php

Amendments- written change to the Constitution

Amendment #1-Freedom of religion, speech, press, assembly, and petition

Amendment #2-Right to bear arms

Amendment #3-No one may be forced to house soldiers

Amendment #4-Protects against unreasonable search and seizure

Amendment #5-Rights of the criminally accused (indictment by grand jury, no double jeopardy, no self-incrimination, due process of the law, eminent domain)

Amendment #6-Rights to a speedy trial by jury (speedy trial, impartial jury, informed of charges, right to an attorney)

Amendment #7-Rights to a jury trial in CIVIL CASES, more than \$20-people sue over money/property

Amendment #8-No excessive bail, no cruel and unusual punishment

Amendment #9-People have other basic rights not listed in Constitution

Amendment #10-All powers not given to the federal government are left for the states to take care of/decide

Amendment #11-Federal courts do not have jurisdiction in cases against a state

Amendment #12-Provides for separate elections for president and vice president

Amendment #13-Abolishes slavery

Amendment #14-Provides equality for all citizens; state governments must follow previously passed amendments

Amendment #15-All males have the right to vote

Amendment #16-Congress has the power to pass direct taxes, such as income tax

Amendment #17-Senators are to be elected by the voters in their state; governor fills state senator positions if position opens during a term

Amendment #18-Selling and drinking of alcoholic beverages is made illegal (prohibited)

Amendment #19-Gives women the right to vote

Amendment #20-Beginning of President, VP and Congress terms in office begins in January; presidential succession can take place before Presidential inauguration

Amendment #21-Selling and drinking of alcoholic beverages is made legal (allowed again, #18 was repealed or cancelled by this amendment)

Amendment #22-Presidents may serve no more than 2 terms or a total of 10 years

Amendment #23-District of Columbia is allowed presidential Electoral College votes

Amendment #24-Eliminates poll tax (no required payment needed to vote)

Amendment #25-Provides for presidential succession and filling a vacant office of vice president,

if VP dies or is removed from office

Amendment #26-Lowers voting age from 21 to 18

Amendment #27-Congressional compensation increases may not take effect until after that congressional term is over (their pay raise doesn't go into effect until new term)