**Mr. Paullay**

**Constitutional Law**

**Summer Supreme Court Writing Assignment**

**Your paper is due the first day of class.**

For this assignment, you will choose one Supreme Court case from the past fifty years that you think was decided wrongly. Your task will be to write a convincing argument to explain why the Supreme Court’s decision was, in your opinion, incorrect. You must base your reasoning on Constitutional arguments, precedents, and history.

This is not as intimidating as it may sound. Few decisions are decided unanimously. The justices in the minority have issued dissenting opinions explaining why they think the majority decided the case incorrectly. These dissenting opinions would be a good starting point for your preparation for the essay. You may quote from the dissents, but I am not looking for a simple cut and paste job. You have the advantage of hindsight and so know the impact the decision has had on American life.. What problems do we encounter in today’s society because of the way that your case was decided? I encourage you to explore that approach.

Here are some sites that might help you find a good case on issues that interest you: <http://www.law.umkc.edu/faculty/projects/ftrials/conlaw/home.html> (Scroll down for links by topic)

<http://www.firstamendmentcenter.org/> (Click at the top for the part of the First Amendment that interests you.) . You may access all Supreme Court decisions at the Oyez site. <http://www.oyez.org/> or at Cornell’s site <http://supct.law.cornell.edu/supct/>

Your paper must be 12 pt. font and is typed and double-spaced.

I would predict that your papers would be in the two to three-page range.