

Using NewsHour Extra Feature Stories

STORY

Supreme Court Rules Terror Suspects Can Appeal Detentions, 06/17/08

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june08/gitmo_6-17.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. What did the Supreme Court decide about detainee rights?
2. What is habeas corpus?
3. Why was the Guantanamo Bay detention center created?
4. What argument did the U.S. use for why they should be able to hold suspects without charges or trial?
5. What did the Military Commissions Act do?
6. What did the Supreme Court majority decide about the Military Commissions Act?
7. What did the dissenting justices say?
8. How will the decision affect military trials already underway at Guantanamo?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you agree with the court that the constitutional right to habeas corpus should apply to detainees? Why or why not?

2. As part of its decision, the court said the Constitution still applies on foreign soil. What are the pros and cons of that decision? What other issues might this address?

3. What do you think should happen to the detainees at Guantanamo as a result of this ruling?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.