

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

Court Weighs School's Right to Strip Search Students, 04/24/2009

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/scotus_04-24.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. **Who is Savana Redding?**

2. **Why did the school officials search Ms. Redding?**

3. **Why did Ms. Redding's mother sue the school district?**

4. **What are the two arguments the lawyers made?**

5. **What do studies conclude about the psychological effects of strip searches on young people?**

6. **What is precedent?**

7. Name and explain one of the two Supreme Court cases involving students that could have precedent in this case.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. In this case the justices must balance the rights of students with the responsibilities of school districts, how should the justices balance this?

2. Do you think students deserve the same rights as adults? Why or why not?

3. Can you think of a situation where individuals have no rights in the United States? Why is that?

4. Do you think school officials should have the right to strip search students? What is your reasoning? Do you think it is necessary?

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.