

**WRITE DOWN THE NAME OF THE CASE BELOW IN YOUR SPIRAL,** then read the case description below with your table and follow the steps after the reading.

**Case 2: *Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier* (1988)**

In 1988, a Missouri high school principal removed two pages of the school's six-page newspaper without telling the student editors. The pages had personal stories of teenagers at the school. In one article, a student had written about divorce and had brutally criticized her father. The other article was about teenage pregnancy, and described experiences with sex and birth control. The principal was concerned that in the first article, the father had not been given a chance to respond. In the second article, he thought that the references to sexual activity were inappropriate for younger students. He also worried that the article might violate the privacy of the students described in it.

Cathy Kuhlmeier and other editors of *Spectrum*, the school newspaper, filed a lawsuit against the school district. They claimed that the principal's actions were censorship and violated their First Amendment right to freedom of press. The lawyers for the student editors argued that the principal should only be allowed to omit articles that would disrupt the school. They said that these articles would not have caused any disruption. Lawyers for the school district responded that the district paid for most of the production cost of the newspaper. Therefore, they argued, the district was the publisher and had the final say on the content of the paper, just as publishers control adult newspapers. They pointed out that the principal had not limited students' private expression. He had made no attempt to stop the students from later photocopying the omitted articles and distributing them on campus.

A federal appeals court sided with the students, agreeing that their First Amendment rights had been violated. Hazelwood School District appealed to the Supreme Court, which considered these issues:

**DISCUSS THE FOLLOWING ISSUES WITH YOUR GROUP: (you don't have to write these down, BUT BE PREPARED TO SHARE IN A DISCUSSION AFTERWARD)**

Who is considered the publisher of a school newspaper, with the right to determine the content of the paper? Under what circumstances, if any, does the First Amendment allow school officials the right to censor school newspapers?

**Imagine you are a Supreme Court Justice hearing this case in court. You will now have to consider the following question at your table and vote for either the school or the student:** Did the principal violate the students' First Amendment right to freedom of press by censoring their newspaper?

**WRITE YOUR RESPONSES TO THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS IN YOUR WRITING FOLDER BENEATH THE TITLE OF THE CASE:**

1. Explanation of your group's majority opinion: (Whichever side that more than half of your table votes for is the MAJORITY. If there is a tie, then just write down both opinions for numbers 1 and 2 with an explanation. The order doesn't matter.)
2. Explanation of your group's minority opinion: (If all of your table agrees on what you wrote for number 1, then still write down arguments for the opposing side to show your understanding of both points of view)
3. Actual Supreme Court ruling and the IMPACT: (write down what the ACTUAL Supreme Court decision was and the long term impact after we discuss. This will be shared with you on the PowerPoint on the white board.)