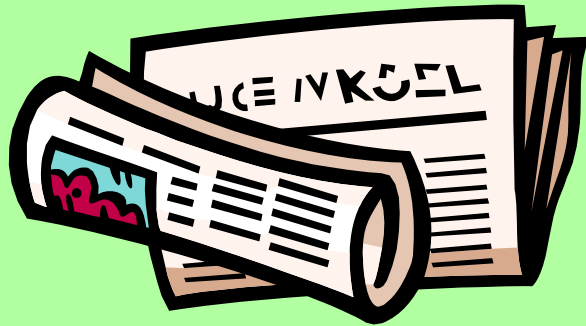


# School Newspaper Censorship



By Martha Smith

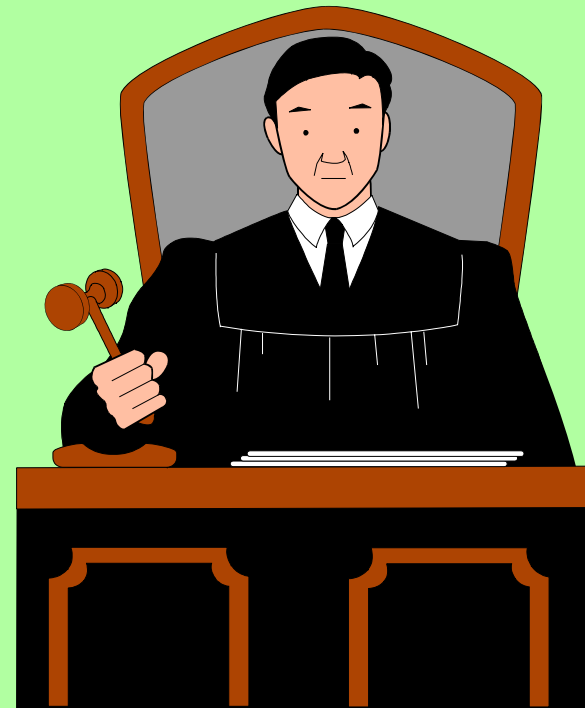
# Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier



In this case, students sued their school district for deleting two pages from their newspaper. Students felt that their First Amendment rights were violated. They believed they followed all journalistic procedures, and their newspaper was unjustly censored.

# Court Decisions

- The first court decision sided with the school district and said that schools can limit student speech if it has a good reason.
- The Court of Appeals overturned the decision and sided with the students.



# Supreme Court Decision

- The Supreme Court of the United States upheld the decision of the school district to censor the student newspaper.
- The students lost their case.



# My Opinion

- In this case, I do not think that the student newspaper should have been censored.

***Support:*** Students followed all procedures and were not given a chance to fix their stories.

- If a student wrote a story that could potentially cause harm to someone, then I think it should be censored.

***Support:*** “Because the paper was a forum for student discussion, the principal or other officials could censor it only when ‘necessary to avoid material and substantial interference with school work or discipline or the rights of others’” ([www.landmarkcases.org/hazelwood/background3.html](http://www.landmarkcases.org/hazelwood/background3.html)).

# Is Information Power?

- If schools can censor student newspapers, it gives schools a lot of power. It controls what students can talk about in a public forum.
- Without the power of free speech, students can not freely express themselves. That limits students' power and ability to challenge school decisions.



# Research Citations

- Hazelwood v. Kuhlmeier (1988). Street Law and Supreme Court Historical Society Presents Landmark Cases Supreme Court.  
[www.landmarkcases.org/hazelwood/background3.html](http://www.landmarkcases.org/hazelwood/background3.html). 28 March 2005.
- Hazelwood School District v. Kuhlmeier. Student Press Law Center.  
[www.splc.org/legalresearch.asp?id=4](http://www.splc.org/legalresearch.asp?id=4). 28 March 2005.