



## Lesson Plan for *Gideon v. Wainwright* 1963

**Learning Objectives:** The student will

1. Answer comprehension questions while watching the video of *Gideon v. Wainwright* 1963 found on Oyez, Oyez, O Yay! website.
2. Express personal opinions about key facts, the arguments, decision, and impact of the Gideon case on the interpretation of the right to counsel guaranteed in the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.

**TEKS:** Govt. 12E

**Materials Needed:** Access to Oyez, Oyez, O Yay! website found at [www.texasbar.com/civics](http://www.texasbar.com/civics) (Gideon video and case study); copies of the viewing guide for each student.

**Teaching Strategy:**

1. Explain to the students that they are going to view a video on the 1963 U.S. Supreme Court case of *Gideon v. Wainwright*. Set the case up by explaining this is an important case in U.S. history and illustrates how the Supreme Court has interpreted the right to counsel guaranteed in the Sixth Amendment of the U.S. Constitution.
2. Pair the students up and distribute a viewing guide to each student. Have the students preview the guide with a partner to discuss the questions they will be asked to answer. After they have discussed their ideas on the guide, explain that they will be watching the video and answering the questions individually.
3. Play the video, stopping at the designated time on the teacher notes for the students to individually answer the comprehension questions as well as complete the “Stop and Think” section. Ask for volunteers to share their thoughts before going to the next section of the video. Continue this process until the video has come to an end.
4. Explain that the last portion of the guide contains a quote from Attorney General Robert Kennedy for them to interpret as well as a question asking them to explain the impact of this case on the legal system in the United States. They should answer both individually before turning in the viewing guide.

**Extension Idea:** Have the student write a short position paper in which they identify and defend the rights they personally believe all people accused of a crime should have.