



## Lesson Plan:

### ***Mendez v. Westminster (1946) and Delgado v. Bastrop ISD (1948)***

**Learning Objectives:** The students will...

1. Answer comprehension questions while watching the videos of *Mendez v. Westminster* and *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*.
2. Compare the impact of these two cases on ending public school segregation in the United States.
3. Express personal opinions about key facts, the arguments, decision, and impact of *Mendez v. Westminster* and *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD* on American history.

**Materials Needed:** Oyez videos on *Mendez v. Westminster* and *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD* ([www.texasbar.com/civics](http://www.texasbar.com/civics)), copies of student viewing guide, copy of teacher notes.

**Teaching Strategy:** (This lesson is designed to use two of the Oyez videos. They can also be used one at a time if necessary.)

1. Explain to the students that they are going to work with a partner to analyze two court cases, *Mendez v. Westminster* and *Delgado v. Bastrop ISD*, for the role they played in the struggle to end segregation in U.S. public schools. Set up the analysis by explaining the following facts:
  - a. These two cases were decided by lower Federal Courts, not the Supreme Court.
  - b. Both of the cases dealt with the segregation of Mexican American children in public schools in California and Texas.
  - c. Because Hispanics were classified as Anglo, neither state had laws requiring the segregation of students of Hispanic heritage.
2. Pair the students and assign one of them to watch the *Mendez* video and the other the *Delgado* video. This can be done outside of class or in a lab setting. Each student should preview the questions he/she is to answer before watching the video and filling out their respective viewing guide.
3. When the students have completed their viewing guide, have them meet with their partner and share the information they gathered about their respective case.
4. When both students have shared, ask them to complete the following questions together:
  - a. What are three ways in which these two cases are similar?
  - b. What are the most significant differences in the two cases?
  - c. What role did these two cases play in ending segregation in public education in the United States?
5. Conduct a class discussion to allow the students to share the conclusions they have developed.