



## Lesson Plan for *Texas v. Johnson* 1989

**Learning Objectives:** The student will

1. Answer comprehension questions while watching the video of *Texas v. Johnson* 1989 found on Oyez, Oyez, O Yay! website.
2. Express personal opinions about key facts, the arguments, decision, and impact of the Johnson case on the interpretation of the right of free (symbolic) speech as guaranteed in the First 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) (Johnson 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 1989 U.S. Supreme Court case of *Texas v. Johnson*. 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 of free (symbolic) speech as guaranteed in the First 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 comprehension questions about the impact of the case since the decision. It concludes with each student determining whether they would support a constitutional amendment protecting the American flag or not. Students should turn in the guide after completing this portion of the viewing guide.

**Extension Idea:** Write a letter to the editor of the newspaper or to your Congressman expressing your support or lack of support for a constitutional amendment protecting the American flag.