



## Lesson Plan: *White v. Regester* (1973)

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

1. Answer comprehension questions while watching the video of *White v. Regester*.
2. Express personal opinions about key facts, the arguments, the decision, and the impact of *White v. Regester* on voting in Texas.

**Materials Needed:** Oyez video on *White v. Regester* ([www.texasbar.com/civics](http://www.texasbar.com/civics)), copies of student viewing guide, copy of teacher notes.

### Teaching Strategy:

1. Begin by having the students brainstorm the reasons eligible citizens don't exercise their right to vote. Explain to the students that they are going to view a video on the 1973 U.S. Supreme Court case *White v. Regester*. Set the case up by explaining its significance—it deals with the issue of redistricting for members of the Texas legislature and its impact on voting in Texas. Is the reason people might not vote identified in the case part of their list brainstormed at the first of class?
2. Pair the students up and distribute a viewing guide to each student. Have the students preview the guide with a partner and predict what they think the answers might be. 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. If there is time, 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 a law professor about how this case explains why voting is so important. Have the students answer this question before turning in the guide. After the guides are turned in, have the students share their ideas.

### Extension Idea:

Have the students research voter turnout for the last election for the Texas House and Senate. Once they have the figures, conduct a discussion about their thoughts on the following question: Keeping in mind the reasons the class identified as to why people don't vote, what could possibly be done in the future to ensure that more eligible citizens participate in the election process?