

2024 NINTH CIRCUIT CIVICS CONTEST

Essay and Video Contest Prompt

70 Years Later—



The Legacy of **Brown v. Board of Education**

2024 marks the 70th anniversary of the United State Supreme Court's 1954 landmark decision in Brown v. Board of Education. In Brown, a unanimous Supreme Court held that racial segregation in public schools is unconstitutional. The Supreme Court struck down the "separate but equal" doctrine that it had adopted in Plessy v. Ferguson, an 1896 case that addressed whether states could legally require railroad companies to provide equal but separate accommodations for passengers of different races.

Brown v. Board of Education is widely accepted as one of the most momentous Supreme Court decisions, but views differ regarding what impact it has had on the law and our society.

In addressing this topic, discuss what impact you think Brown has had and why. The following are some examples of questions that you could consider in thinking about these issues:

- Did Brown influence changes in the law, or in society, beyond the decision in that case, or were any changes that happened after Brown inevitable?
- Did Brown affect the way that Americans view the Supreme Court, or affect how Supreme Court conducts itself?
- Should the Supreme Court consider how its decision on a particular subject impacts society, or how the decision is viewed by the public?

The 2024 Ninth Circuit Civics Contest is open to high school students in nine western states and two Pacific island jurisdictions. Students from public, private, parochial and charter schools as well as homeschooled students of equivalent grade status may enter.

The contest is organized by the Ninth Circuit Public Information and Community Outreach (PICO) Committee.

Contest rules available at <http://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>. Both essays and videos can be submitted electronically starting Jan. 8, 2024. **Deadline for entries is 11:59 p.m. Pacific Time, Monday, March 15, 2024.**

For more information, contact Katherine Rodriguez at civicscontest@ce9.uscourts.gov.



<https://www.ca9.uscourts.gov/civicscontest>

Cover image collage: original graphics with photograph of Nettie Hunt, sitting on the steps of the U.S. Supreme Court building, explaining the significance of the court's May 17, 1954, desegregation ruling to her daughter, Nikie. Photo by UPI Tele/Files, New York World-Telegram and the Sun Newspaper Collection, Prints and Photographs Division ([Library of Congress](https://www.loc.gov)).