

## **First-Year Law School Class Assignment**

**Course:** Constitutional Law

**Professor:** Sally Pretorius

**Date:** [Assignment Due Date]

**Topic:** Judicial Review and the Role of the Supreme Court

### **Assignment Overview:**

In this assignment, you will analyze the concept of judicial review and its impact on the balance of power within the United States government. Your response should demonstrate an understanding of the principles established in *Marbury v. Madison* (1803) and their implications for contemporary legal issues.

### **Reading Materials:**

1. *Marbury v. Madison*, 5 U.S. (1 Cranch) 137 (1803)
2. Excerpts from The Federalist Papers No. 78 (Alexander Hamilton)
3. [Additional readings assigned by the professor]

### **Assignment Instructions:**

#### **Part I: Case Brief (1-2 pages)**

Write a formal case brief of *Marbury v. Madison* including the following sections:

- **Facts:** Summarize the key facts leading to the Supreme Court case.
- **Issue:** Identify the legal question(s) presented to the Court.
- **Holding:** State the Court's decision.
- **Reasoning:** Explain the rationale behind Chief Justice John Marshall's opinion.
- **Impact:** Discuss the significance of the ruling on the judiciary and American law.

#### **Part II: Analytical Essay (3-4 pages)**

Write an analytical essay responding to the following prompts:

1. Explain the importance of judicial review in maintaining constitutional checks and balances.
2. Discuss the arguments for and against judicial review as outlined in The Federalist Papers No. 78.
3. Provide a modern example where judicial review has played a crucial role in shaping policy or law. Analyze whether the Court's decision aligns with the principles established in *Marbury v. Madison*.

Your essay should be well-structured, incorporate relevant case law, and provide a critical analysis supported by legal reasoning.

### **Formatting Guidelines:**

- Double-spaced, 12-point Times New Roman font
- 1-inch margins on all sides
- Bluebook or APA citation format
- Cover page with name, course title, professor's name, and date
- Page numbers in the header

### **Grading Criteria:**

Your assignment will be graded based on the following criteria:

- 1. Understanding of Judicial Review (30%)** – Demonstrates a clear grasp of *Marbury v. Madison* and its legal significance.
- 2. Legal Analysis (30%)** – Provides well-reasoned arguments with supporting evidence.
- 3. Writing Clarity and Structure (20%)** – Organized, coherent, and professional presentation.
- 4. Citations and Sources (10%)** – Proper use of legal citations and academic sources.
- 5. Grammar and Mechanics (10%)** – Free of spelling and grammatical errors.

**Submission Instructions:**

- Submit as a PDF or Word document via [Submission Portal/Email].
- Due by [Date & Time].
- Late submissions will be penalized as per course policy.

**Additional Notes:**

For questions or clarification, please reach out during office hours or via email at [Professor's Email].