

## ***Gratz v. Bollinger: A Supreme Court Case***

This information will help you prepare for the Supreme Court hearing.

### **Arguments Made in Lower Courts**

Take a look at the arguments each side made in the lower courts. This could help you think about arguments and questions you might use.

#### **Attorneys for the Students (Gratz):**

- The admissions policy is a violation of the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment because it does not treat all students equally.
- The students were not as competitive as others based on race or ethnicity. Minority students were more competitive because they got extra points.
- The students were denied the opportunity to compete for admission on an equal basis.

#### **Attorneys for University of Michigan (Bollinger):**

- The system makes it more fair for all students, even those who did not have the same opportunities earlier in life and in high school as others, to have a chance to attend this school.
- The university has the right to ensure that its student body is diverse. This is important for to the quality of education for all our students.
- Though the system gives points to certain racial and ethnic groups, it also gives the same amount of points to athletes or disadvantaged students.

### **The question before the court:**

Does the University of Michigan's use of racial and ethnic preferences violate the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment?



## **To Prepare for the Case:**

**Attorneys for the students (Gratz):** Create arguments to convince the justices that the university's admissions policy is not fair to all students and violates the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**Attorneys for the University (Bollinger):** Create arguments to convince the justices that the admissions policy is fair to all students and does not violate the 14<sup>th</sup> Amendment.

**Justices of the U.S. Supreme Court:** Create at least three questions to ask each side to help you determine the case.

## **Rules of Oral Argument**

1. Attorneys for the students will present first.
2. Attorneys for the university will present second.
3. Justices will ask questions of both sides during the arguments.

## **The Justices' Decision**

1. After oral arguments, the justices meet and discuss the case.
2. Then they vote.
3. The justices will explain the reasons for the decision.