THE BATTLE FOR FREE SPEECH IN SCHOOLS

Scopes Monkey Trial





John Scopes, a high school science teacher in Tennessee, was put on trial for teaching evolution, which violated state law. The trial brought national attention to the debate over the teaching of evolution in schools.

Tinker V. Des Moines

1962



The Supreme Court rules that students do not lose their freedom of speech rights when they enter a school building, and that schools can only restrict speech if it disrupts the school environment.

Island Trees School District v. Pico





The Supreme Court rules that school officials cannot remove books from a library solely because of their content, unless the books are "pervasively vulgar" and lacking in educational value.

Arizona State Law Banning Ethnic Studies





A law is passed in Arizona that bans ethnic studies programs in public schools, leading to the removal of books and other materials from classrooms. The law is later struck down as unconstitutional.