

# Plessy v. Ferguson 1896 Reading Guide

## Vocabulary Words

Segregation:

Black Codes:

Supreme Court:

Opinion of the Court:

Dissenting Opinion:

*Refer to the Case Overview to answer the following questions.*

What were the traditions that caused former slaves to begin at a disadvantage at the end of the Civil War?

What were black codes?

What Supreme Court ruling asserted that racial distinctions / segregation were NOT unconstitutional?

What phrase was coined to "sum up" the Court's ruling on legally enforced segregation, as long as facilities for blacks are not inferior to those of whites?



Which Justice dissented on the Court's opinion (ruling)?

What was his reasoning?

*Refer to the Opinion of the Court to answer the following questions:*

What, specifically, is the basis of this case?

What Constitutional Amendment(s) are in question in this case?

What did the Court decide is the main purpose of the Fourteenth Amendment?

Did the Court decide that the Fourteenth Amendment was written to abolish distinctions based on color or social standing?

Did the Court believe that the Louisiana ruling was reasonable?

*Refer to Justice Harlan's dissent:*

What phrases does Justice Harlan use to describe the Constitution's stance on Civil Rights?

