Supreme Court Case Assignment

Choose one of the three US Supreme Court cases that are listed in this assignment. Read the opinion in the case, using the link provided below the name of the case. If CTRL+Click does not work, cut and paste the link into a new browser window. You may encounter some difficulties if using Safari, so try to use Firefox, Microsoft Edge, Google Chrome, or some other tool. The opinions are lengthy, so reading them may take an hour to two hours.

After you read the opinion, answer the following questions. You may phrase your responses as short, one-paragraph answers or in the form of a paper:

1.) Who are the parties in the case? (Don't just recite the name of the case. Explain who the parties are and why they are interested in the outcome of the case.)

2.) What does the Court consider to be the main legal dispute or disputes in the case? This is not always the same as the main factual dispute in the case, so look carefully at what points of law the Court is discussing.

3.) What resolution does the Court reach? What justice writes the majority opinion? What seems to be the reasoning behind the Court’s decision? What cases does the Court cite?

4.) If there are dissenting and/or concurring opinions written by Supreme Court justices, what do the opinions say? Who has written those opinions? If the decision of the Court is unanimous, please be sure to indicate that the decision is unanimous in order to receive credit.

5.) Do you agree or disagree with the result in the majority opinion? Why? If you disagree with the majority, do you agree with any concurring or dissenting opinions?

This is a "closed universe assignment," meaning that you are not to consult outside sources, such as newspaper articles, websites, or legal journals. Submitted work using any outside sources, other than a dictionary or your course textbook, will receive a grade of zero. You may request an early review of your paper, if you are unsure as to whether you have answered the questions correctly or if you would like assistance. Please email me at RAYN@ecu.edu if you would like me to review your work prior to the due date. When you are ready to submit the final draft of your assignment, upload it in Canvas.

New York v. New Jersey

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/22pdf/156orig_k5fl.pdf>

Houston Community College System v. Wilson

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/21pdf/20-804_j426.pdf>

Dawson, et ux. v. Steager, West Virginia State Tax Commissioner

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/opinions/18pdf/17-419_n75o.pdf>