

Introduction to Law
Unit Three Reading Assignment

Name:

Date:

“Snyder v. Phelps: Why the Supreme Court Ruled for Westboro”

Introduction

Navigate to <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=0meqcKTAcMU> and view the ABC News Nightline segment on the Westboro Baptist Church.

Directions

As you read the Time Magazine article *“Snyder v. Phelps: Why the Supreme Court Ruled for Westboro”*, answer the following questions.

<http://www.time.com/time/nation/article/0,8599,2056613,00.html>

1. Briefly describe the event that prompted the case “Snyder v. Phelps”.
2. What was Albert Snyder’s goal in filing the lawsuit against the Westboro Baptist Church?
3. What was the decision of the Fourth Circuit Court of Appeals that was affirmed by the Supreme Court?
4. What reasons did Chief Justice Roberts provide for the majority’s decision?

5. What reason did the Court provide against Snyder's "intrusion upon seclusion" claim?

6. Summarize the reasons Justice Alito provided in his lone dissent.

7. Describe Westboro's reaction to the most recent ruling by the Supreme Court.

8. What question would you like to ask Mr. Snyder?

9. What question would you like to ask Reverend Phelps?

10. If you were a justice on the U.S. Supreme Court, how would you have voted on this case? Why?