

Mr. Jones
Honors Government

FORMAT OF A SHORT ANSWER PARAGRAPH (4-6 sentence paragraphs with 10 points possible)

- **Complete description** of the facts concerning the term (i.e. citizen accounts, Court rulings, Presidential actions, Congressional purpose, etc). (6 points)
- **Impact of the term** on American government and/or history. (4 points)

Examples

Fletcher v. Peck (1810)

In *Fletcher v. Peck* (1810), the State of Mississippi had granted the Yazoo Land Company a large grant of land. This grant took land from citizens that had claims to the land and gave it the private company. The Supreme Court ruled in the case that Mississippi had overstepped its power because the Constitution guaranteed private property rights. In addition, the case also began the process of establishing legal precedent of the Supreme Court's power to review laws and actions of the various states.

Wilmot Proviso

The Wilmot Proviso was introduced into Congress in 1846 by David Wilmot of Tennessee. It stated that slavery will not exist in any new territories taken from Mexico in the Mexican War. This pushed the slave debate in Congress, which had been silenced by a gag order in the 1830s, to the forefront. The bill passed the House of Representatives but failed to pass the Senate. However, the battle lines were drawn and the debate over slavery in the federal territories becomes the major issue before the nation, eventually leading to Civil War.