

*Mergens v. Westside Community Schools:*

**Opening the Door to Religious Freedom in Public Schools**

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Group Documentary

Process Paper Word Count: 493

### **How We Chose Our Topic:**

After we decided to participate in National History Day, we began research online to choose our topic. We wanted to study something that affected our area of the Omaha Metro vicinity. Through a news video, we stumbled upon the *Mergens v. Westside Community Schools* Supreme Court case. This case intrigued us because it was about a local girl who decided to challenge a school district to gain religious freedom. We started researching and soon discovered that we wanted to use this Supreme Court case to show how one student changed history.

### **How We Conducted Our Research:**

We started by learning details about the case and trying to find people who were involved. We reached out to Westside Public Schools, but no contact was returned. We found connections that led us to Professor Duncan, professor of Constitutional Law at University of Nebraska. We were able to set up a phone interview, which helped us discover more intricate details about the case. As we continued to look for sources, we discovered our school reading teacher's brother, Gary Hoyt, was involved in this case as Mergens's pastor. We contacted Pastor Hoyt and interviewed him in person. During this interview we were able to FaceTime Bridget Mergens herself and ask some of our questions. We then reached out to her again to conduct a phone interview. This interview was an important part in our project and helped us gain a wider perspective about the case. All of these pieces helped us create our documentary.

### **How We Selected Our Presentation Category and Created Our Project:**

We started by creating a website, but it was not a good match for our topic. We wanted something more personal due to the fact that we felt a connection to this case. We did some research on the other project categories and figured out which option would represent our project the best. Our final decision was a documentary because it allowed us to communicate the topic through audio and visuals. To begin our documentary, we created a script and started piecing interviews and other information we have gathered together to form our documentary titled: *Mergens v. Westside Community Schools: Opening the Door to Religious Freedom in Public Schools*.

### **How Our Project Relates to the National History Day Theme:**

Bridget Mergens demonstrated that just one person can make a difference. All Mergens wanted was a Christian Bible study club that could be held on her school's campus. This case broke a barrier in history because she was willing to stand up for her religion and what she believed in against those who thought religion didn't belong in schools. She fought through hardship to gain a freedom that was important to her and students all over. Mergens made it possible for students just like her to participate in school Bible study clubs in schools nationwide. Who knows where religion in schools would be today if not for Bridget Mergens?

## **Annotated Bibliography**

### **Primary Sources**

#### **Websites**

Board of Educ. v. Mergens, 496 U.S. 226 (1990). 31 Dec. 2019

[supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/496/226/](https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/496/226/).

-We used this website to help better our understanding of what really happened in the Courtroom. These were the actual transcripts of the case.

#### **Interviews**

Hoyt, Gary. Personal Interview. 21 February 2020.

-We used this interview to know what Mergens herself was like and how she got this case so far. We wanted to know what it was like in the courtroom, and that is what Paster Hoyt provided us with this and with an understanding of what happened in the court case.

Mergens, Bridget. Personal Interview. 21 February 2020.

-We learned why Mergens thought this case was worthy of going to the Supreme Court. Mergens also gave us her real personal experience and why she was willing to take this case so far as a senior in high school.

## Secondary Sources

### Interview

Duncan, Rick. Personal Interview. 12 February 2020.

-We used this interview to determine the constitutionalism of this case and why it went as far as the Supreme Court.

### Websites

AZ Quotes. [www.azquotes.com/quote/907035](http://www.azquotes.com/quote/907035). Accessed 21 Dec. 2019.

-We found our main quote that goes with this case. This quote really expresses how this case intrigued us and shows that religion is has a place in the public building along with other offerings.

BOARD OF EDUCATION OF WESTSIDE COMMUNITY SCHOOLS V. MERGENS.  
[usedulaw.com/186-board-of-education-of-westside-community-schools-v-mergens.html](http://usedulaw.com/186-board-of-education-of-westside-community-schools-v-mergens.html).  
Accessed 6 Feb. 2020.

-Told us what her case was and what the specific events were at the Supreme Court level and what the specific outcomes were. It also gave information on why the case went through so many different courtrooms and eventually arrived at the Supreme Court.

Equal Access Act of 1984 (1984). [www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1077/equal-access-act-of-1984](http://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/1077/equal-access-act-of-1984). Accessed 31 Dec. 2019.

-We obtained our facts about the Equal Access Act, how it affected this case, and whether it was constitutional. Whether it was constitutional or not was the main argument in the Supreme Court. This was argued by the Westside Community School Board.

Legal Information Institute. [www.law.cornell.edu/wex/establishment\\_clause](http://www.law.cornell.edu/wex/establishment_clause). Accessed 17 Jan. 2020.

-This was information on what the establishment clause is and why it affected this case. This showed us that the Equal Access Act and the Establishment clause are related and that they both did play a role in this case and why it went so far in the courtrooms.

Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens (1990).

[www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/661/board-of-education-of-the-westside-community-schools-v-mergens](http://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/661/board-of-education-of-the-westside-community-schools-v-mergens). Accessed 6 Jan. 2020.

-This was all about the establishment clause and whether it was violated or not. We needed this because the reason the case made it to the Circuit of Appeals was because Mergens believed that the establishment clause of the first amendment was being violated.

Walsh, Mark. "Omaha Westside High: Unlikely Spark For Major Constitutional Confrontation." Education Week, [mobile.edweek.org/c](http://mobile.edweek.org/c).

<http://www.edweek.org/education/story/omaha-westside-high-unlikely-spark-for-major-constitutional-confrontation/2012/01/11>

-Gave us an overall view of what happened during the case and a timeline on which to base our documentary.

## Newspapers

“Westside Senior Denied OK to Conduct Bible Study Group .” The Lincoln Star, 6 Mar. 1985,

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/311815882/?terms=Bridget+Mergens>.

-This newspaper provided more information on when Mergens went to the District 66 School Board. It also showed the margin of victory by which Mergens won.

“Schools Will Discuss Bible Case in Omaha.” The Lincoln Star, 13 Apr. 1990,

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/311617296/?terms=Bridget+Mergens>.

-This showed how this case impacted others, such as how scholars met at the University of Nebraska at Omaha.

“Court Hears School Bible Study Case.” Fremont Tribune , 8 Jan. 1990,

<https://www.newspapers.com/image/523245038/?terms=Bridget+Mergens>.

-This newspaper gave us more information on the Equal Access Act and how it affected this case. It showed what happened in the Supreme Court with the Equal Access Act.

Thompson, David. "Court Told Push For Bible Study Spelled Its Doom." Omaha World Herald, 9 Apr. 1987,

[https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p\\_action=doc&p\\_docid=12DF6EE5E3B7FB60&p\\_docnum=10&s\\_trackval=&s\\_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s\\_dlid=DL0120032920550601782&s\\_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s\\_referrer=&s\\_siteloc=&s\\_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s\\_docsleft=0&s\\_docstart=3&s\\_docsba](https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=12DF6EE5E3B7FB60&p_docnum=10&s_trackval=&s_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s_dlid=DL0120032920550601782&s_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s_referrer=&s_siteloc=&s_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s_docsleft=0&s_docstart=3&s_docsba).

-This is a newspaper archive that revealed that Bridget Mergens asked her principal several times to form this club. We also discovered some of the questions Westside high schools' lawyers asked the students.

Thompson , David. "Judge Hears Suit on Denial Of Westside Prayer Group." Omaha World Herald, 8 Apr. 1987,

[https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p\\_action=doc&p\\_docid=12DF6ECCC6201998&p\\_docnum=14&s\\_trackval=&s\\_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s\\_dlid=DL0120032920581101873&s\\_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s\\_referrer=&s\\_siteloc=&s\\_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s\\_docsleft=0&s\\_docstart=3&s\\_docsbal](https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=12DF6ECCC6201998&p_docnum=14&s_trackval=&s_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s_dlid=DL0120032920581101873&s_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s_referrer=&s_siteloc=&s_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s_docsleft=0&s_docstart=3&s_docsbal).

-This is an Omaha World Herald archive. This provided us with more information on why Mergens felt her school should have a Bible study club.

Goodsell, Paul. "5 Years Later, Westside Case Reaches Climax." Omaha World Herald, 7 Jan. 1990,

[https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p\\_action=doc&p\\_docid=12DF5EDBF1FA308&p\\_docnum=7&s\\_trackval=&s\\_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s\\_dlid=DL0120032920492001652&s\\_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s\\_referrer=&s\\_siteloc=&s\\_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s\\_docsleft=0&s\\_docstart=3&s\\_docsbal](https://nl.newsbank.com/nl-search/we/Archives?p_action=doc&p_docid=12DF5EDBF1FA308&p_docnum=7&s_trackval=&s_subexpires=04/05/2020 16:47 PM&s_dlid=DL0120032920492001652&s_accountid=AC0120032920205200917&s_referrer=&s_siteloc=&s_orderid=NB0120032920470701565&s_docsleft=0&s_docstart=3&s_docsbal).

-This newspaper article from the Omaha World Herald helped us gain a local view of this case, and it gave us more facts and information about Mergens trials. This article also gave us some insight on the case from Bernard James, a Constitutional Law Professor at Pepperdine University in Malibu, California.

### **Video**

westside vs mergens. [www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4mNRrIjKZI](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=t4mNRrIjKZI). Accessed 31 Dec. 2019.

-We obtained our baseline information from this video. This video also was what led us to select this case over others.

"BOARD OF EDUCATION V. MERGENS." *C-Span*, 9 Jan. 1990,

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4856836/user-clip-bridget-mergens>.

-This video helped us get a better understanding of why she was so passionate about this.

## **Photographs**

University of Nebraska Cornhuskers, "Nebraska Cornhuskers logo." Wikimedia, 1890,

[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nebraska\\_Cornhuskers\\_logo.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Nebraska_Cornhuskers_logo.svg).

-We used this photo to represent the Nebraska Corn Huskers as an important part of who we are as a state.

Hanna, Thomas M. "Red State, Red Power: Nebraska's Publicly-Owned Electricity System." *The Ecologist*, 31 Jan. 2015,

<https://theecologist.org/2015/jan/31/red-state-red-power-nebraskas-publicly-owned-electricity-system>.

-This picture represented what some people see when they think of Nebraska.

Marshall, Thurgood. "1990 Class Photo of the US Supreme Court." Thurgood Marshall, 11 Sept.

1990, <http://thurgoodmarshall.com/photo-of-the-us-supreme-court/>.

-This picture illustrates members of the Supreme Court when this case was in their hands.

Snover, Jonathan, and Claire Benson. "Students Support Teacher as Rumors Spread." *Westside Wired*, 12 Apr. 2019,

<https://westsidewired.net/41145/news/students-support-teacher-as-rumors-spread/>.

-We wanted a picture of Westside High Schools logo and found this through this website.

Beck, Thomas. "Nebraska...the Good Life!" Flickr, SmugMug Flickr, Omaha, 22 May 2008,

<https://www.flickr.com/photos/tommygunnphotography/2573187810>.

-The state sign shows that Nebraska really is a good place and we used it because the case started here.

Welch, M. "Nebraska Corn." Flickr, SmugMug+Flickr, 15 July 2014,

[www.flickr.com/photos/118385105@N07/14763266441/in/photolist-ouzALz-2hGBKLN-2bMoepw-8TtJzc-9Trous-Rdk61o-xACEvS-NPwBKf-2hKeDnC-PZRg43-2fTcWfG-MYzRUu-LvRQxs-LUsrrS-PWQukT-NLxeL7-2hKhfKf-PSAY9v-NQKpsy-2fyvhX2-LZJ3Yx-2hKeEkz-26syXpd-PUafCJ-Q3hjYZ-Pyc29d-NPksp-2iwWGvD-ZgxgHa-Mc6ASo-LtVc1s-2hXgC5w-KTERjZ-Mesoe2-73WuXH-VKQyCH-q5gTyc-73JAQ1-2gFa6iR-6PejQH-KPt2aT-ar2bE4-28pH6GA-ci8gCq-XcpmoC-3NvXc-a9NrBC-pdKygg-ZMm21o-MMYCsv](http://www.flickr.com/photos/118385105@N07/14763266441/in/photolist-ouzALz-2hGBKLN-2bMoepw-8TtJzc-9Trous-Rdk61o-xACEvS-NPwBKf-2hKeDnC-PZRg43-2fTcWfG-MYzRUu-LvRQxs-LUsrrS-PWQukT-NLxeL7-2hKhfKf-PSAY9v-NQKpsy-2fyvhX2-LZJ3Yx-2hKeEkz-26syXpd-PUafCJ-Q3hjYZ-Pyc29d-NPksp-2iwWGvD-ZgxgHa-Mc6ASo-LtVc1s-2hXgC5w-KTERjZ-Mesoe2-73WuXH-VKQyCH-q5gTyc-73JAQ1-2gFa6iR-6PejQH-KPt2aT-ar2bE4-28pH6GA-ci8gCq-XcpmoC-3NvXc-a9NrBC-pdKygg-ZMm21o-MMYCsv).

-Corn is a huge part of the Nebraska lifestyle and it represents Nebraska well.

Hurd, Richard. "Nebraska Landscape 07-25-2011." Flickr, SmugMug+Flickr, 24 July 2011,

[www.flickr.com/photos/rahimageworks/7588700350](http://www.flickr.com/photos/rahimageworks/7588700350).

-This photo shows what the state of nebraska looks like and we used it to show the importance of the case in Nebraska.

Ravi, Joe. "File:Panorama of United States Supreme Court Building at Dusk.jpg." Wikimedia

Commons, 10 Oct. 2011,

[commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama\\_of\\_United\\_States\\_Supreme\\_Court\\_Building\\_at\\_Dusk.jpg](http://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:Panorama_of_United_States_Supreme_Court_Building_at_Dusk.jpg).

-This picture shows the Supreme Court to its fullest, and we used it to showcase why this case was and is still important.

Tintazul. "US Court of Appeals and District Court Map." Wikimedia Commons, 11 July 2006,  
[https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:US\\_Court\\_of\\_Appeals\\_and\\_District\\_Court\\_map.svg](https://commons.wikimedia.org/wiki/File:US_Court_of_Appeals_and_District_Court_map.svg).

-We used this picture to give the audience a reference to what actually happened when Bridget appealed to the U.S. Circuit Court and won.

Board of Education of the Westside Community Schools v. Mergens (1990).

[www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/661/board-of-education-of-the-westside-community-schools-v-mergens](http://www.mtsu.edu/first-amendment/article/661/board-of-education-of-the-westside-community-schools-v-mergens). Accessed 6 Jan. 2020.

-We used this to find a picture of Bridget Mergens herself from when this case was in the process of being tried at the Supreme Court.

McKenith, DaVonté. "Nebraska High School Students Placed Semen in Frosting for Class Project." NCVB, 10 Dec. 2016,

<https://www.wcvb.com/article/police-nebraska-high-school-students-placed-semen-in-frosting-for-class-project/8486885#>.

-This is a picture of the school Westside High School and we used it to show that.

Blank, Christine. "Pharmacist Groups Support Supreme Court PBM Case." Life Science, 24 Feb. 2020,

<https://www.drugtopics.com/latest/pharmacist-groups-support-supreme-court-pbm-case>.

-We used a gavel to represent the Supreme Court.

Official ACLJ. Court Segments with Justice Scalia & Jay Sekulow: 2. Mergens. Youtube, 19 Feb. 2016

-This video gave us an image of Bridget Mergens, the person whose dream changed the way Nebraska public school buildings may be used for religious purposes.

Gabbatt, Adam. "This Article Is More than 3 Years Old Nebraska Needs New Flag after Flying It Upside Down for 10 Days, Politician Says." The Guardian, 1 Feb. 2017,

<https://www.theguardian.com/us-news/2017/feb/01/nebraska-state-flag-upside-down-rede-sign>.

-This is the Nebraska state flag and we used it to represent Nebraska.

Schulman, Jeremy. "Trump's Lawyer Just Made the Most Misleading Statement I Have Ever Heard." Mother Jones, 27 Jan. 2020,

<https://www.motherjones.com/politics/2020/01/trumps-lawyer-just-made-the-most-misleading-statement-i-have-ever-heard/>.

-This is where we found a picture of Mergens lawyer, Jay Sekulow.

Sparks, Dana. "Mayo Clinic Named a 2013 DiversityInc Top 10 Hospital System." Mayo Clinic, 24 Apr. 2013,

<https://newsnetwork.mayoclinic.org/discussion/mayo-clinic-named-a-2013-diversityinc-top-10-hospital-system/>.

-We used this photo to show equality for the Equal Access Act. The Equal Access Act was very important in this case and we really wanted to emphasize it.

Kelly, Martin. "How Many Supreme Court Justices Are There?" Thought CO., 14 Nov. 2019,  
<https://www.thoughtco.com/how-many-supreme-court-justices-are-there-104778>.

-This is to show the Supreme Court and the importance of it. A student led this case so far and we really wanted to show this.

Zoix, Ben. FreePik, 2017,

[https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/card-soft-template-paper-report\\_1079803.htm#page=1&query=red gradient&position=0](https://www.freepik.com/free-photo/card-soft-template-paper-report_1079803.htm#page=1&query=red%20gradient&position=0).

-The school Westside High School's school color is red. This is why we thought this background would be perfect.

Farmer, C. "Modern School Building ." DepositPhotos, 26 Feb. 2010,

<https://depositphotos.com/2371440/stock-photo-modern-school-building.html>.

-We wanted to emphasize that it all started at a school with a student. This is where we found our school picture.

Dumisa. "The Hidden Power of Perseverance." Medium, 15 Oct. 17AD,

<https://medium.com/@dumisar/the-hidden-power-of-perseverance-4016f7b214f2>.

-We wanted to show that Mergens overpowered everything and everyone who was against her. This picture really shows how Mergans overcame it all.

Morris, Robert. "10 Powerful Ways God Speaks in the Bible." Crosswalk, 26 Apr. 2016,

<https://www.crosswalk.com/faith/bible-study/10-powerful-ways-god-speaks-in-the-bible.html>.

-This case is religious and we wanted to show that by using the Bible.

Kashyap, Vartika. "Why Finding Inspiration at Work Is so Important?" ProofHub Blog, 24 Nov. 2016,

<https://blog.proofhub.com/why-finding-inspiration-at-work-is-so-important-8ff7e0a50730>.

-This case was very inspirational. This picture is to portray that.

Preston, David. "Diversity & Inclusion: Where Do We Go From Here?" People Suit Talent Solutions , 9 Apr. 2018,

<https://www.peoplesuite.com/diversity-inclusion-where-do-we-go-from-here/>.

- This picture helped us explain how the Equal Access Act of 1984 gave equal opportunity to all student groups.

Totenberg, Nina. "Retired Justice John Paul Stevens Talks History, His New Book And Ping-Pong." NPR, 10 May 2019,

<https://www.npr.org/2019/05/10/717596511/justice-john-paul-stevens-talks-history-his-new-book-and-pingpong>.

-Supreme Court Justice John Paul Stevens was the only Supreme Court Justice to not grant Mergens access to a Bible club at her school.

"Climate Change Theatre Action at Creighton University." Climate Change Theatre Action , 4 Dec. 2019,

<http://www.climatechangetheatreaction.com/event/climate-change-theatre-action-at-creighton-university/>.

-We used this picture to show that scholars discussed this case at Creighton University.

This shows how much this case impacted the Omaha Metro area.

Nitcher, Emily. "Westside Teacher and Coach, Told That His Contract Wasn't Renewed, Asks School Board for Hearing." Omaha World Herald , 27 Apr. 2019,

[https://www.omaha.com/news/education/westside-teacher-and-coach-told-that-his-contract-wasn-t/article\\_88fa25d7-e056-5863-b393-4f46b768be04.html](https://www.omaha.com/news/education/westside-teacher-and-coach-told-that-his-contract-wasn-t/article_88fa25d7-e056-5863-b393-4f46b768be04.html).

-We used this image to show which school Bridget Mergens attended--Westside High School.

Coy, Peter. "North Dakota Is Leaving South Dakota In the Dust." Bloomberg Businessweek, 25 Feb. 2014,

<https://www.bloomberg.com/news/articles/2014-02-25/north-dakota-is-leaving-south-dakota-in-the-dust>.

-We used this photo to describe what an amazing state Nebraska is.

Miller, Michelle, and Patrick Ziegler . "Farm Babe: A Tribute to the Flyover States." AGDaily, 23 July 2019,

<https://www.agdaily.com/lifestyle/farm-babe-tribute-flyover-states/>.

-We used this photo to convey the message that a Supreme Court case started here, in Nebraska.

Mauro, Erik. "Westside Community Schools Considering Changes." 3kmtv News Now Omaha, 4 Feb. 2019,

<https://www.3newsnow.com/news/local-news/westside-community-schools-considers-changes>.

-This image was used to show that Westside High School was a part of District 66.

Press, Associated. "Despite Fierce Weather, Nebraska Avoids Climate Change Plan." 1011 Now, 10 Feb. 2019,

<https://www.1011now.com/content/news/Despite-fierce-weather-Nebraska-avoids-climate-change-plan-505636631.html>.

-This image was used to help the viewers understand where this Supreme Court case started.

Hadro, Matt. "Trump Admin Announces Rules to Allow Equal Access to Grants for Despite fierce weather, Nebraska avoids climate change plan

Religious Groups." Catholic Online, 17 Jan. 2020,

<https://www.catholic.org/news/politics/story.php?id=84129>.

-We used this image to convey how church and state came together to make Mergens's dream a possibility.

"Sandra Day O'Connor." History.com, 21 Aug. 2018,

<https://www.history.com/topics/us-government/sandra-day-oconnor>.

-We used this image to help describe Supreme Court Justice, Sandra Day O'Connor who delivered the opinion in this case.

We Had a Time of Prayer around the FlagPole This Morning. Students Prayed for Their Family, Friends, Military, Our School, and Our Country. God, Thank You That We Have the Freedom to Do This!!23 Sept. 2015,

<http://www.oaktreeacademy.org/we-had-a-time-of-prayer-around-the-flag-pole-this-morning-students-prayed-for-their-family-friends-military-our-school-and-our-country-god-thank-you-that-we-have-the-freedom-to-do-this/>.

-This image was used to convey that religion is allowed in some schools.

Barton, Greg. "Students Pray At The School Flagpole." Wdac, 26 Sept. 2018,

<https://www.wdac.com/2018/09/26/students-pray-at-the-school-flagpole/>.

-This picture was used to send a message to our audience of prayer in schools.

"Solid Red Backgrounds." See Too Worlds , 13 Sept. 2011,

<http://seetoworld.blogspot.com/2011/09/solid-red-backgrounds.html>.

-We used this background many times in our documentary while introducing new sources and interviews.

Watts, Nick. "Freedom of Religion? Yes. Freedom of Biblical Christianity? Not so Much." Soul Food, 13 June 2017,

<https://nickwattssoulfood.com/2017/06/13/freedom-of-religion-yes-freedom-of-biblical-christianity-not-so-much/>.

-This picture helped us convey the idea that Mergens wanted religious freedom in her school.

Communications, University. "Our City This Summer." University of Nebraska at Omaha, 22 Apr. 2019,

<https://www.unomaha.edu/news/events/summer-events-in-omaha.php>.

-This is where we found a picture of the "Welcome to Omaha" monument. We used this to show that this case all started in Omaha, Nebraska.

"BOARD OF EDUCATION V. MERGENS." *C-Span*, 9 Jan. 1990,

<https://www.c-span.org/video/?c4856836/user-clip-bridget-mergens>.

-This is the website that produced a picture and interview of Bridget Mergens.

"United States Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit." *Wikipedia*, 1 Oct. 1982,

[https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United\\_States\\_Court\\_of\\_Appeals\\_for\\_the\\_Federal\\_Circuit](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/United_States_Court_of_Appeals_for_the_Federal_Circuit).

-We used this to show the United States Court of Appeals.

"What Can You Do with a Politics Degree?" *Times Higher Education*, 12 Nov. 2019,

<https://www.timeshighereducation.com/student/subjects/what-can-you-do-politics-degree>

-The Equal Access act applies whether it has political, philosophical, or religious views.

This represents the Political portion.

“Multiphysics Simulation Charts the Migration of Harmful Proteins in the Brain.” *Physics*

World, 20 Oct. 2018,

<https://physicsworld.com/a/multiphysics-simulation-charts-the-migration-of-harmful-proteins-in-the-brain/>.

-This is a picture of a brain. This represents philosophical views.

“Religious Symbols And Their Significance: Take The HuffPost Religion Quiz!” *Huff Post*, 20

Oct. 2013,

[https://www.huffpost.com/entry/religious-symbols-significance\\_n\\_3964458](https://www.huffpost.com/entry/religious-symbols-significance_n_3964458).

-This represents the religious views. It is a photo of multiple religions and how it can be expressed

“United Methodist Church Announces Plan to Split Over Same-Sex Marriage.” *The New York Times*, 3

Jan. 2020, <https://www.nytimes.com/2020/01/03/us/methodist-split-gay-marriage.html>.

-Mergens and the other students were proposed having the club at a church close to the school. This picture is to represent that.

“The Long Debate About Church and State.” *KUAF*, 9 Sept. 2019,

<https://www.kuaf.com/post/long-debate-about-church-and-state#stream/0>.

-The Establishment Clause plays a huge role in this case. The Establishment Clause is the separation of church and state. We used this picture to portray that.

“Countryside Comm. Church Opens in Tri-Faith Initiative.” *KMTV*, 16 May 2019,

<https://www.3newsnow.com/news/local-news/countryside-comm-church-opens-in-tri-faith-initiative>.

-Mergens and the students were proposed an offer to have the club at a church close to the school.

“A CONSERVATIVE CASE FOR SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE.” *The College Conservative*, 12 June 2015,

<http://thecollegeconservative.com/2015/06/12/a-conservative-case-for-separation-of-church-and-state/>.

-This picture is for the Establishment Clause which is the separation of church and state.

“Tortured Supreme Court Term Leaves Confusion In Its Wake.” *Fortune*, 27 June 2017,

<https://fortune.com/2016/06/27/supreme-court-term-ends/>.

-This is the inside of the supreme court. We are using it to represent the importance of it.

“First Amendment .” *History.com*, 25 Sept. 2019,

[https://www.history.com/.image/t\\_share/MTY3MTY4NDU1OTA3MjIyNjQ0/first-amendment-gettyimages-1003130100.jpg](https://www.history.com/.image/t_share/MTY3MTY4NDU1OTA3MjIyNjQ0/first-amendment-gettyimages-1003130100.jpg).

-This is to show that the establishment clause comes from the first amendment.

“Christian Legal Society.” *UGA*, 7 Apr. 2020,

<http://www.law.uga.edu/christian-legal-society>.

-This image showed who represented Bridget Mergens at the Nebraska District Court trial.

“Westside Board Weighs Options as District Faces \$2.8 Million Budget Gap.” *Omaha World Herald*, 1 Mar. 2019,

[https://www.omaha.com/news/education/westside-board-weighs-options-as-district-faces-million-budget-gap/article\\_3001370b-d70d-5738-b7e8-e0f133240949.html](https://www.omaha.com/news/education/westside-board-weighs-options-as-district-faces-million-budget-gap/article_3001370b-d70d-5738-b7e8-e0f133240949.html).

-We used this picture to show that Bridget Mergens was denied by the school board.

“Applying the DIR Model in a Public School.” *Affect Autism*, 30 Oct. 2017,

<https://affectautism.com/2017/10/30/applying-the-dir-model-in-a-public-school/>.

-This case affected so many public schools. This picture is supposed to help show that.

“What To Do If Your Concealed Carry Permit Application Is Denied.” *USA Carry*, 20 Dec. 2016,

<https://www.usacarry.com/carry-permit-application-denied/>.

-Mergens was denied so many times during this case. This picture is to represent that she fought through it.

“What a College's 'Official' Acceptance Rate May Be Hiding From You.” *Money*, 21 Oct. 2016,

<https://money.com/college-official-acceptance-rate-misleading/>.

-When Bridget Mergens won and was granted a Bible study club it was a big deal. This picture shows that.

“2020: Scam Alert over How We Write the Year in France.” *Connexionfrance*, 5 Jan. 2020,

<https://www.connexionfrance.com/French-news/2020-Scam-alert-over-how-we-write-this-year-in-France-as-20>.

-In our interviews we asked if this case was in court today would it be the same outcome and this image is used to represent what year we are in now.

“Supreme Court Upholds Controversial Traffic Stop by Police.” *Fox News*, 6 Apr. 2020,

<https://www.foxnews.com/politics/supreme-court-upholds-traffic-stop-by-police-in-search-and-seizure-case>.

-The Supreme Court is the last place this case is seen. This is where Mergens finally won the right to have a Christian club in her school.

“Garyhoyt.” *Twitter*, Mar. 2009,

<https://twitter.com/garyhoyt>.

-Gary Hoyt was Bridget Mergens youth pastor in high school. He is one of our major interviews, and provided us with a lot of insight about the case.

“The Supreme Court Building.” *The Supreme Court of the United State*,

<https://www.supremecourt.gov/about/courtbuilding.aspx>.

-This is a picture of the supreme court. The main portion of this case was spent in the supreme court.

“Person Climbing on Cliff Digital Wallpaper HD Wallpaper.” *Wallpaper Flare*,

<https://www.wallpaperflare.com/person-climbing-on-cliff-digital-wallpaper-wallpaper-141752>.

-Bridget Mergens pushed through everything to do what she thought was right. This picture represents her hard work.

“Westside School District to Eliminate Elementary Spanish.” *The Flightline*,

<https://skuttcatholicflightline.com/10776/news/westside-public-schools-to-defund-spanish-programs/>

-This picture is to represent who Bridget brought her proposal to after she was denied to have the club by her principal.