

**Writing Assignment #1**  
**National Government**  
**Spring 2008**

During Chief Justice John Robert's Senate confirmation hearings, he stated that the correct interpretation of the Second Amendment was "still very much an open issue." Now, the Supreme Court has decided to grant certiorari in the first Second Amendment case that they have heard since 1939. The case addresses the Washington, DC gun ban, which is one of the strictest in the nation. For the purpose of this assignment, first read the Appellate Court for the DC Circuit's decision (found on the instructor's website and WebCT) and describe the facts surrounding the case, including what the city requires and what the plaintiffs' arguments are. You may need to supplement this with newspaper or magazine articles from mainstream sources (i.e., New York Times, Wall Street Journal, Newsweek, Time, etc; if you have a question as to what constitutes a mainstream source, be sure to ask me). Be sure to cite any outside sources in Chicago (Turabian) format. Next, discuss your thoughts on how the Supreme Court will rule on this issue, being sure to discuss the individual justices. Will they rule in favor of the city or the plaintiffs? Will it be another close vote (i.e., 5-4)? Why? Finally, explain your position on the case. Do you think the city is justified in its restrictions, or do you think that the Constitution provides individuals the right to keep and bear arms? Why? This paper should be four or five pages in length.

\*\*This reading can be found on the instructor's website and WebCT, labeled as "DC District Court Decision for Writing Assignment #1."