

Simple Case Story Answer Key

A strong student summary should include these essential points:

- William Marbury was supposed to receive a government job but did not get his official paperwork.
- He asked the Supreme Court to force the government to deliver his commission.
- The Supreme Court said he did deserve the job, but they could not force it because the law giving them that power was unconstitutional.
- This decision created and clarified the power of **judicial review**: the Court can decide if laws follow the Constitution.
- This greatly strengthened the Judicial Branch.

Reflection should mention lasting importance of the Court checking other branches and protecting the Constitution.

Teacher's Guide

- Review the timeline quickly before writing.
- Remind students to focus on clarity rather than complicated legal terms.
- Encourage students to imagine they're explaining the case to a friend or younger sibling.

Differentiation

- Support: Provide a sentence frame organizer (e.g., "First... Next... Finally...").
- Challenge: Have students add why Jefferson and Madison opposed the appointment.
- English Learners: Provide key vocabulary with simple definitions (commission, unconstitutional, court).

Extension Activities

- Students illustrate the major turning point in the case.
- Have students write a second summary from the perspective of Marbury, Jefferson, or Chief Justice Marshall.