

## Lesson 19 - Understanding the Equal Protection Clause

- 1) 5 minutes - Brainstorming exercise with a small group. Can you think of any laws that create categories of people and treat them differently based on the category? Make a list of all those kinds of laws or government actions. Walk around and give them age for driving if they are stuck.
- 2) 5 minutes - Have them share out examples - make a list of the laws that they come up with
- 3) What does the 14th amendment equal protection clause say? - Read aloud
- 4) Do the laws you cited, this differential treatment, violate the 14th amendment? How do we know?
- 5) Supreme Court has through its rulings, created tests to help decide. These are known as tiers of scrutiny.
- 5) Read pages 134-135 and use the text to help you fill out the empty boxes on the Tiers of Scrutiny chart. Go over the chart.
- 6) With a small group, complete the What Do You think activity on the back (based on the activity on page 135).
  - A) Decide which level of scrutiny to use
  - B) Then, have your group be the court. Use the chart to determine whether or not you would uphold the law? Identify the government interest in the case. Is the law narrowly tailored?



