



National History Day Research Guide

**Topic: Standing for Separation of Church and
School: Engel vs. Vitale**

Contact the Reference Services department for help with your research project:

- Phone us, 720-865-1363,
- Visit us, reference desk on Floor 3 of the [Central Library](#),
- Chat with us online with the [Ask Us!](#) Service,
- Meet with us in person or online to work [one-on-one with a librarian](#).

Getting Started

Begin your research by brainstorming keywords - the words and phrases you'll use to search for books, articles, websites, government documents, and other resources. These may include names of people and places or historical concepts like eras and movements. A librarian can suggest "subject headings" to find the most relevant resources.

Example Keywords & Subject Headings

School Prayer
Church and State
Establishment Clause
First Amendment

[Prayer In The Public Schools -- Law And Legislation -- United States.](#)
[Religion In The Public Schools -- Law And Legislation -- United States.](#)

Primary & Secondary Sources

Start your search at [the library catalog](#). You will need to use both [primary](#) and secondary sources for your project. You can often find both in the library catalog and place holds on materials, if needed.

Books/Print Resources at DPL

Engel v Vitale : prayer in the schools
<https://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=624593>
The school prayer decisions : from court policy to local practice
<https://catalog.denverlibrary.org/view.aspx?cn=6970>

Database/Online Resources

Library databases are online collections of information, organized for research. Databases contain articles, eBooks, images, maps, primary sources and more. If you don't have a library card, [register online](#) for immediate access to these resources. The following recommended databases are available on our [Research](#) and [Teen Social Studies](#) pages.

[Gale Virtual Reference Library](#) Access full-text encyclopedias covering the arts, biography, country studies, history, law, literature, religion, science, social science and more.

"Engel V. Vitale." <https://tinyurl.com/ybwapbhl>

"Engel v. Vitale (1962)." <https://tinyurl.com/yapyrbz3>

The databases below have less on Engel v. Vitale specifically, but many articles on the school prayer controversy.

[US History in Context](#) Provides a complete overview of our nation's past that covers the most-studied events, decades, conflicts, wars, political and cultural movements, and people from reference sources, full-text magazines, academic journals, news articles, primary source documents, images, videos, audio files and links to vetted web sites.

School Prayer <http://tinyurl.com/z7essmz>

[Readers' Guide Retrospective: 1890-1982](#) provides indexing of over three million articles from more than 550 leading magazines including full coverage of the original print volumes of Readers' Guide to Periodical Literature. This resource offers researchers access to information about history, culture and seminal developments across nearly a century.

Engel v. Vitale <http://tinyurl.com/zuotja5>

[New York Times Historical Backfile on ProQuest](#) Contains full-text and images in PDF format of the New York Times from 1851 to three years before current year.

5 L.I. parents who started suit hail decision <http://tinyurl.com/zywgh7c>

Searching beyond Denver Public Library

As a Denver Public Library customer, you can also [borrow materials from other library systems](#). If DPL doesn't have something you need, search Prospector to check other Colorado libraries' catalogs.

The battle over school prayer: how Engel v. Vitale changed America / Bruce J. Dierenfield

http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb20606788__Sengel%20vitale__Orightresult__U__X2?lang=eng&suite=def

Engel v. Vitale: prayer in the public schools / by Julia C. Loren

http://encore.coalliance.org/iii/encore/record/C__Rb15467074__Sengel%20vitale__P0%2C2__Orighresult__U__X2?lang=eng&suite=def

Internet Sources

Before using information you find on the internet for assignments and research, it is important to establish that the information comes from a reliable and appropriate source. The following websites, from government, academic and nonprofit organizations, have been evaluated for

authority, accuracy, content and currency.

Facts and Case Summary: Engel v. Vitale

<http://www.uscourts.gov/educational-resources/educational-activities/facts-and-case-summary-engel-v-vitale>

Engel v. Vitale full text: <https://supreme.justia.com/cases/federal/us/370/421/case.html>

Engel v. Vitale: Oyez Project (Sound recordings of oral arguments)

<https://www.oyez.org/cases/1961/468>