MAKING SENSE OF A SUPREME COURT ARGUMENT

**Morse v. Frederick (2007)**

**Constitutional Question: Does the First Amendment allow public schools to prohibit students from displaying messages promoting the use of illegal drugs at school-supervised events?**

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| **Opinion of the Court (Justice Roberts)** |
| **Argument: School officials did not violate the 1st Amendment, because schools must safeguard students from the encouragement of illegal drug use.** |
| Claim A:  Reasoning/Evidence to Support Claim  (short quotes with line numbers) |
| Claim B:  Reasoning/Evidence to Support Claim  (short quotes with line numbers) |

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| **Concurrence (Justice Thomas)** |
| **Argument: Public schools may prohibit speech advocating illegal drug use, and students should not have 1st Amendment rights at all in schools.** |
| Claim:  Reasoning & Evidence to Support Claim  (short quotes with line numbers) |
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| **Dissent (Stevens)** |
| **Argument: The school’s interest in protecting students from exposure to speech about illegal drug use cannot justify limiting the 1st Amendment.** |
| Claim:  Reasoning/Evidence to Support Claim  (short quotes with line numbers) |
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