Mr. Fallabel

Civics

Eminent Domain Worksheet

1. What is eminent domain?
2. According to the Constitution, what two conditions must be met for the government to exercise eminent domain?
3. Under the traditional interpretation, what types of projects were considered proper uses of eminent domain?
4. How and why did the concept of eminent domain begin to change in the 1950’s?
5. Why are some local governments and politicians in favor of using eminent domain for economic development?
6. What has been the most important and controversial eminent domain case in U.S. history? Who won? What was the case about?
7. What has been the impact of the 2005 Supreme Court decision concerning eminent domain?
8. Under the current interpretation, what is to prevent any developer from using eminent domain to avoid paying a fair market price for someone’s property?
9. Did the founders intend for eminent domain to be used to benefit private interests? Why or why not?
10. Who should make decisions about how property is used: the people who own the property, or the government?