### **Plessy v. Ferguson (1896) and Brown v. Board of Education (1954)**

#### **Directions:**

Use the provided readings to answer the questions below. Compare and contrast the two cases and reflect on their significance in shaping American society.

### **Part 1: Case Comparison**

Complete the table by analyzing the key aspects of each case.

| **Question** | **Plessy v. Ferguson** **(1896)** | **Brown v. Board of Education (1954)** |
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| **What was the issue being decided?** |  |  |
| **What was the Court’s decision?** |  |  |
| **What reasons supported the decision?** |  |  |
| **What was the dissenting opinion?** |  |  |
| **What was the impact on society?** |  |  |

### **Part 2: Reflection**

Answer the following questions in complete sentences. Use evidence from the readings to support your responses.

1. How did the Court's reasoning in *Plessy v. Ferguson* reflect the social and political attitudes of its time?

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1. Why was the *Brown v. Board of Education* decision considered a turning point in the fight for civil rights?

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1. Compare the impact of the two cases on American society. How did one case reinforce segregation while the other worked to dismantle it?

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1. What lessons can we learn from these cases about the role of the Supreme Court in shaping equality and justice?

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