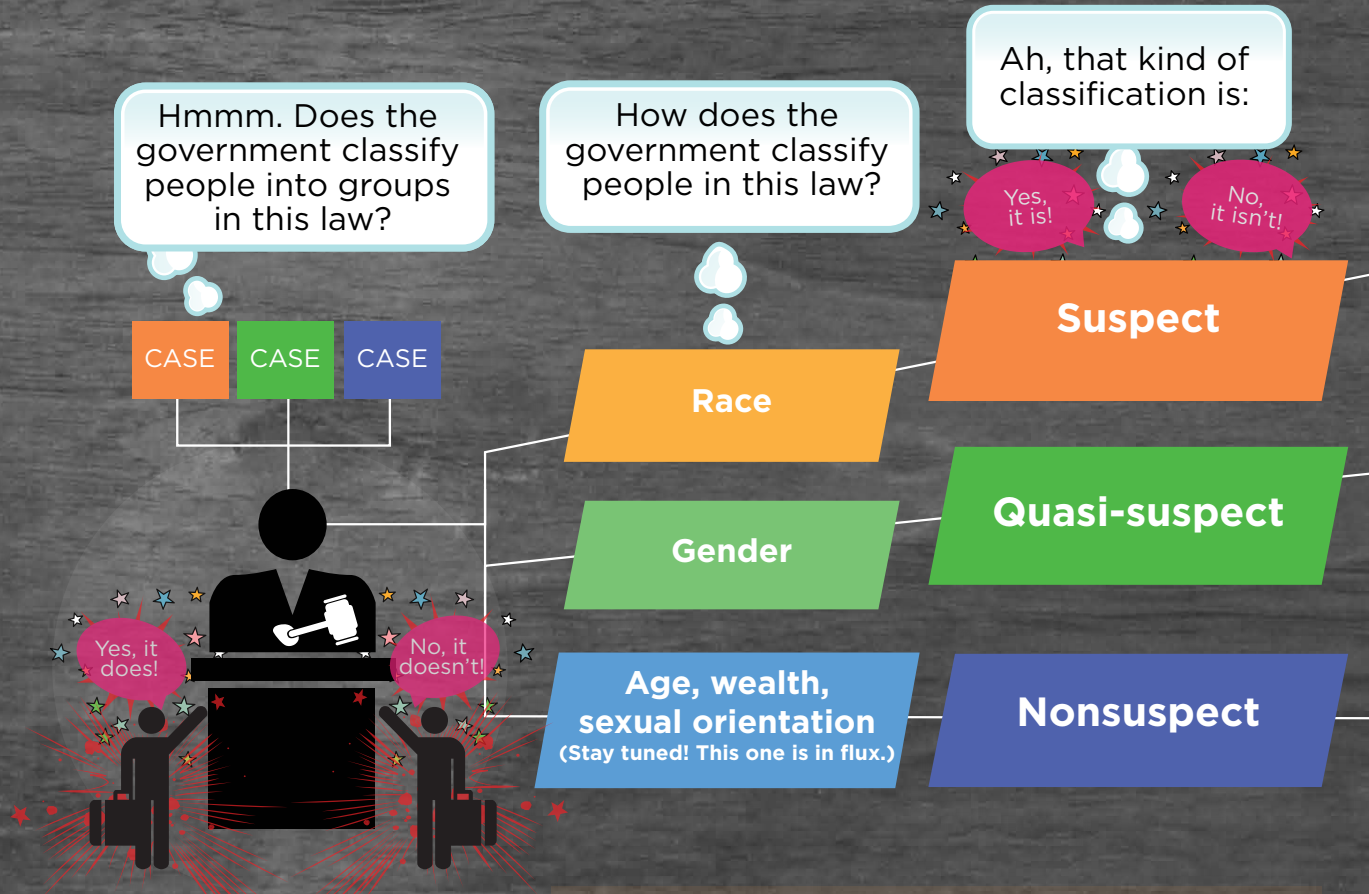


THE BIG PICTURE: WHEN THE LAW CAN TREAT PEOPLE DIFFERENTLY

The Supreme Court has expended considerable energy and ink on this problem, and its answers have changed over time as various groups have waged the battle for equal rights against a backdrop of ever-changing American values, public opinion, and politics. Before we look at the struggles those groups have endured in their pursuit of equal treatment by the law, we should understand the Court's current formula for determining what sorts of discrimination need what sorts of legal remedy.



EXAMPLE OF
CLASSIFICATION
UPHELD

CLASSIFICATION
STRUCK DOWN

SUSPECT

Government had a compelling state interest (national security) in relocating Japanese Americans from the West coast during World War II. *Korematsu v. United States* (1944)

State government had no compelling reason to segregate schools to achieve state purpose of educating children. *Brown v. Board of Education* (1954)