

Personal Reflection: Grutter

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Grutter addressed the permissibility of race-sensitive admissions policies in higher education. The U.S. Supreme Court held that race may be considered in admissions “in order to realize the educational benefits of diversity”. The admissions policy must consider a variety of criteria and their use of race must be “narrowly tailored” so that each student receives individualized consideration. The court ruled against *Parents Involved* because it did not provide individualized consideration for each student.

I think the individualized consideration of applicants and narrowly tailored usage of race is an effective way to begin addressing some of the racial inequities at higher education institutions. Of course, it would be better if race truly was not a factor to consider, but this will not be the case until there is true equality between races in America as a whole. So, I am happy that race can be considered when admitting students to a university, especially since there are clear guidelines that surround this process. I also think the Personal Achievement Index in Texas is a clear and systematic way of approaching institutional admissions. This way, race is only a small factor that is considered alongside of a student’s overall background.

Finally, I think *Fisher*’s argument that “the Top Ten Percent Law provide(s) a race-neutral alternative that negated the need for the university to consider race in any of its admissions decisions” has some validity. However, there are too many factors that could impact a student’s ability to be in the top ten percent of their high school graduating class that might be related to their life at home rather than their race alone.