
SEPARATE IS NOT EQUAL

BROWN v. BOARD OF EDUCATION

The Integrationist Arguments

Lawyers for the plaintiffs relied on legal arguments, historical evidence, and psychological studies:

1. In *Plessy v. Ferguson*, the Supreme Court had misinterpreted the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment. Equal protection of the laws did not allow for racial segregation.
2. The 14th Amendment allowed the government to prohibit any discriminatory state action based on race, including segregation in public schools.
3. The 14th Amendment did not specify whether the states would be allowed to establish segregated education.

Psychological testing demonstrated the harmful effects of segregation on the minds of African American children.