

THE BAKKE CASE

Before reading this article, look at the words and try to match them with their correct definitions.

Minority	a person who formally requests something, especially a job, or a place at college or university
Background	to take legal action against a person or organization
Applicants	any small group in society that is different from the rest because of their race, religion or political beliefs, or a person who belongs to such a group
Scores	the number of points, goals, etc. achieved in a game or competition
Sue	your family and your experience of education, living conditions, wealth, etc.
Unfair	not treating people in an equal way, or not morally right

In the past, members of **minority** groups without a good educational **background** were not admitted into good universities. To help minority students, some universities now have “Affirmative Action” programs. These programs give special consideration to minority **applicants**. This help may include scholarships or special admission requirements. Many Americans support these programs, but there are also a growing number of people who oppose them.

The famous Bakke case questioned the use of affirmative action programs in universities. In both 1973 and 1974, a California medical school refused to admit Allan Bakke, who was a white engineer in his mid-thirties. The school said that Bakke’s grades and test scores should have been higher. With a better academic record, the school might have accepted him. However, Bakke discovered that his grades and **scores** were higher than those of some minority students who had been accepted as part of special affirmative action program. So Bakke **sued** the university. He said that the university would have accepted him if he hadn’t been a white male.

In the end, the Supreme Court decided that Bakke was right. It said that the medical school should have accepted him and that the affirmative action program was **unfair**. Of course, many people disagreed with the court. They believed that the court should have supported the special affirmative action program for minorities.

Extended Questions:

Select **one** question to respond to. *Write at least three sentences or more.*

1. How would you have felt if you were in Allan Bakke's situation? What would you have done in his position?
2. Do you think Bakke should have sued? Why or why not?
3. Are you for or against affirmative action programs? Explain your reasoning.