

Definition Essay: Equal Protection Under the Law

Read the following quotations:

"No State shall make or enforce any law which shall abridge the privileges or immunities of citizens of the United States; nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, or property, without due process of law; nor deny to any person within its jurisdiction the equal protection of the laws."

The Fourteenth Amendment to the United States Constitution, (Ratified in 1868)

"Where justice is denied, where poverty is enforced, where ignorance prevails, and where any one class is made to feel that society is an organized conspiracy to oppress, rob, and degrade them, neither persons nor property will be safe."

Frederick Douglass (American Slave and Abolitionist, 1818-1895)

"Equality before the law in a true democracy is a matter of right. It cannot be a matter of charity or of favor or of grace or of discretion."

Wiley Rutledge (Lawyer, Judge, and US Supreme Court Justice, 1894-1949)

"Laws are only observed with the consent of the individuals concerned, and a moral change still depends on the individual and not on the passage of any law."

Eleanor Roosevelt (American Spokeswoman and First Lady, 1884-1962)

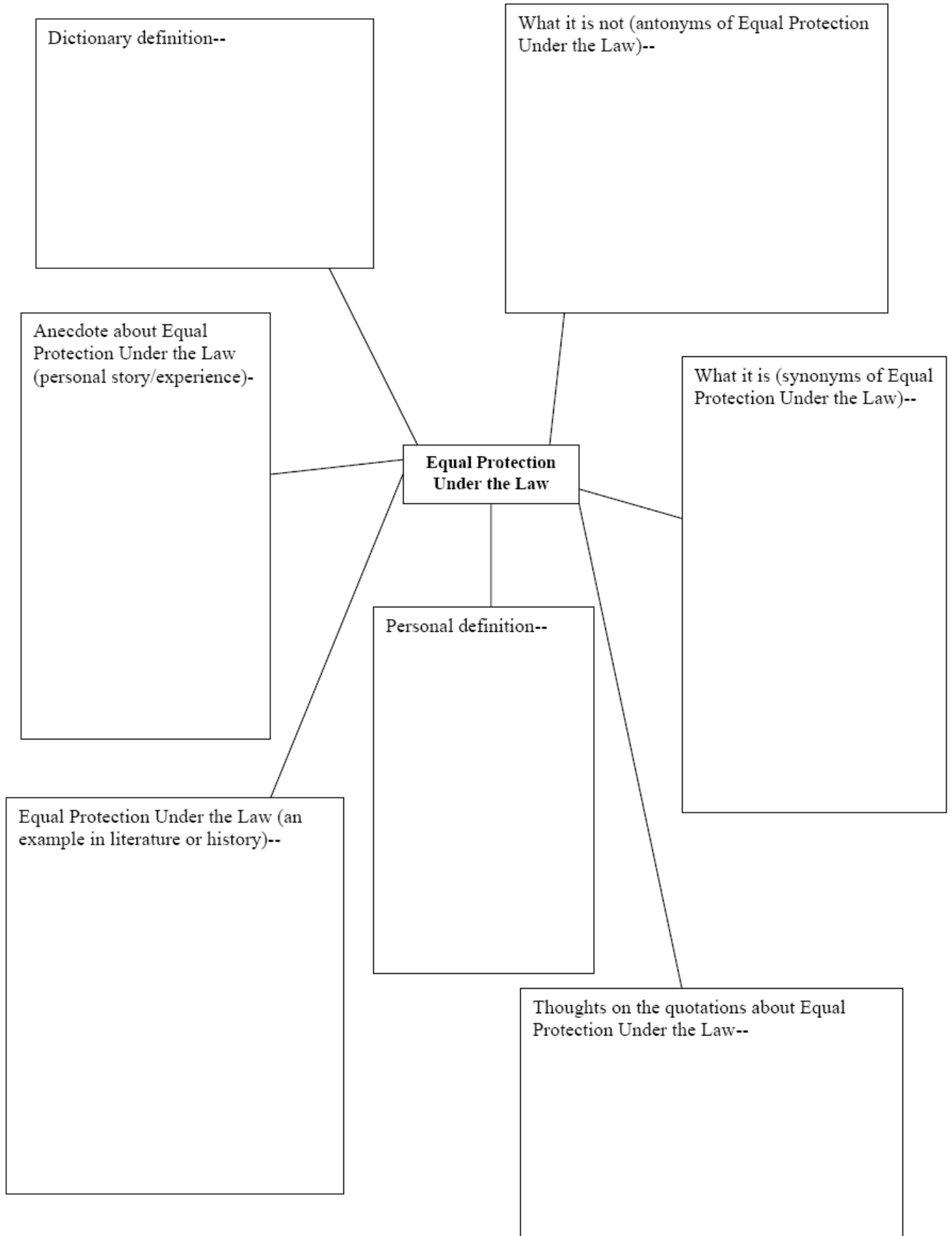
Write an essay in which you define the phrase *Equal Protection Under the Law*.

Basic Requirements:

- Introduction paragraph with thesis statement (HINT: This thesis statement will propose your definition of the phrase Equal Protection Under the Law.)
- 2-3 body paragraphs that correlate with your thesis statement and support your definition
- A concluding paragraph that reminds me of your key points and effectively argues your definition

As you write your essay, you must:

- Focus on defining the concept of Equal Protection Under the Law.
- Effectively organize your ideas using the provided graphic organizer. (A five-paragraph essay is not necessary; however, you do need a definite introduction, body and conclusion.)
- Include ideas from any of the following sources:
 - The dictionary and or personal definition
 - Synonyms and antonyms (compare/contrast)
 - An anecdote
 - Any ideas stimulated by the above quotations
 - Other historical evidence
 - Evidence from relevant literary works
- Include ample and appropriate details.
- Edit your essay for standard grammar and language usage.
- PROOFREAD, PROOFREAD, and PROOFREAD!



Dictionary definition--

What it is not (antonyms of Equal Protection Under the Law)--

Anecdote about Equal Protection Under the Law (personal story/experience)-

What it is (synonyms of Equal Protection Under the Law)--

Equal Protection Under the Law

Personal definition--

Equal Protection Under the Law (an example in literature or history)--

Thoughts on the quotations about Equal Protection Under the Law--