Assignment on the first criterion, the meaning of a word

Today of the new Supreme Court session, they agreed to hear, among others, a case involving the 1964 Civil Rights Act. The important provision of the act prohibits discrimination based on a person’s “race, color, religion, sex, or national origin.”

Hear an account today on NPR: <https://www.npr.org/2019/10/08/766386729/showdown-over-lgbtq-employment-rights-hits-supreme-court>

In a case not discussed in the Nina Totenberg broadcast concerns an adjunct community college instructor (Kimberly Hively) in Indiana was brought before the Appeals Court for the 7th District. She was denied full time appointment and finally her part time contract was not renewed because she alleges, she was a lesbian.

The court held that in 1964 “sex” was generally understood to mean biological gender at birth. But, the majority we on to say the original meaning has expanded. “Times have changed” said one judge concurring with the majority. The meaning of the statute has changed and the word “sex” in it now connotes both gender and sexual orientation. “Therefore, the passage of time and concomitant change in attitudes .. can justify a fresh interpretation of the statute that is “ripe” for reinterpretation.

Now to instructions for the next written assignment.

The dispute before the court is the meaning of the word “sex” as it appears in the 1964 Act. Using our tools in handout under the first criterion, acceptable reasons, apply the tools to the word in question, “sex.” That means you must use the tools of equivocation, vagueness, connotation, and extension as they are described in the handout. You are free to use those tool in whatever way you think appropriate, but those words must appear in you essay.

You can also address the following questions.

So, is the majority of the Indiana Court right; the meaning of ‘sex’ now has included sexual orientation?

What was the counter argument for those defending the firing?

If the meaning of ‘sex’ has change, does that mean the scope of the 1964 Act has expanded?

What is your prediction on how the Supreme Court will decide?

There is now a drop box for you to upload the essay. The original deadline has been changed by agreement. It is now Saturday at 10:00 am. Again, no late papers, no name on the uploaded paper, and all papers must be submitted to turnitin.com