

Name _____

Date: _____

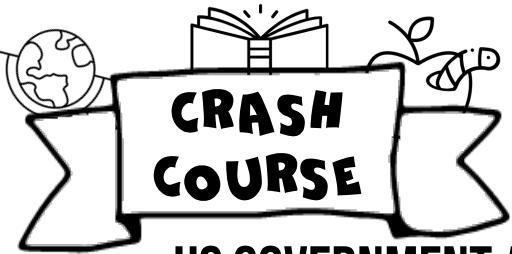
Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #20 SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES PROCEDURES

Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

decision	holding	petitions	concurrences	dissent
opinion	briefs	discussion	appeals	solicitor

- 1. Before a case gets to the Supreme Court you have to have exhausted your _____ at lower levels of the state or federal system.
- 2. The federal government's chief lawyer, the _____ general, is basically like a bouncer at a hot club, if you're old enough to get into a hot club.
- 3. The list of cases that will be decided is called the _____ list.
- 4. _____ are written legal arguments from each side explaining why the law favors their position.
- 5. In order for the court to render an official _____, 5 of the 9 justices, a majority must agree on at least one of the legal arguments that either affirms or overturns the lower court's decision.
- 6. The chief justice presides over the conference and assigns the task of writing the court's decision, called the majority _____.
- 7. The decision of the court either to affirm or overturn the lower court's ruling is called "the _____," and this is the first thing you need to know in any Supreme Court decision.
- 8. A _____ does not set a precedent for a lower court and has no force of law.
- 9. Most certiorari _____, there are usually about 8,000 each year, don't make it past the clerks or the solicitor general, and don't get granted.
- 10. Dissents and _____ may be fun and interesting to read, and they may include important legal ideas, but lower courts don't need to follow them.



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Directions: Write one thing you think you know about the topic.

1. _____

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- 2. The federal government's chief lawyer, the _____ general, is basically like a bouncer at a hot club, if you're old enough to get into a hot club.
- 3. The list of cases that will be decided is called the _____ list.
- 4. _____ are written legal arguments from each side explaining why the law favors their position.
- 5. In order for the court to render an official _____, 5 of the 9 justices, a majority must agree on at least one of the legal arguments that either affirms or overturns the lower court's decision.
- 6. The chief justice presides over the conference and assigns the task of writing the court's decision, called the majority _____.
- 7. The decision of the court either to affirm or overturn the lower court's ruling is called "the _____," and this is the first thing you need to know in any Supreme Court decision.
- 8. A _____ does not set a precedent for a lower court and has no force of law.
- 9. Most certiorari _____, there are usually about 8,000 each year, don't make it past the clerks or the solicitor general, and don't get granted.
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Answer Key

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Directions: While watching the video, fill in the blanks.

decision	holding	petitions	concurrences	dissent
opinion	briefs	discussion	appeals	solicitor

- 1. Before a case gets to the Supreme Court you have to have exhausted your **appeals** at lower levels of the state or federal system.
- 2. The federal government's chief lawyer, the **solicitor** general, is basically like a bouncer at a hot club, if you're old enough to get into a hot club.
- 3. The list of cases that will be decided is called the **discussion** list.
- 4. **Briefs** are written legal arguments from each side explaining why the law favors their position.
- 5. In order for the court to render an official **decision**, 5 of the 9 justices, a majority must agree on at least one of the legal arguments that either affirms or overturns the lower court's decision.
- 6. The chief justice presides over the conference and assigns the task of writing the court's decision, called the majority **opinion**.
- 7. The decision of the court either to affirm or overturn the lower court's ruling is called "the **holding**," and this is the first thing you need to know in any Supreme Court decision.
- 8. A **dissent** does not set a precedent for a lower court and has no force of law.
- 9. Most certiorari **petitions**, there are usually about 8,000 each year, don't make it past the clerks or the solicitor general, and don't get granted.
- 10. Dissents and **concurrences** may be fun and interesting to read, and they may include important legal ideas, but lower courts don't need to follow them.