



Name _____

Date: _____

Teacher: _____

US GOVERNMENT AND POLITICS #22 JUDICIAL DECISIONS

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

philosophy	justices	ideology	activism	restraint
history	liberals	conservatives	president	decisions

- ☐ 1. _____, especially on the Supreme Court, are supposed to be independent, but that doesn't mean they make their decisions in a vacuum.
- ☐ 2. The _____ has minimal effect on judicial decisions although he's somewhat influential on lower court justices who might one day want to be on the Supreme Court.
- ☐ 3. Much more influential on justices is _____.
- ☐ 4. Party affiliation and political _____ are certainly important in the selection process.
- ☐ 5. Judicial _____ is the idea that the Court should act as an instrument of policy.
- ☐ 6. Judicial _____, as the name implies, is the idea that judges should pay close attention to the precedent when they make their decisions, and that any changes that they make to the law should be incremental.
- ☐ 7. Judicial restraint is often equated with conservatism, which makes sense, as _____ generally are against change.
- ☐ 8. The conservatives were all appointed by Republican presidents and the _____ by Democratic presidents.
- ☐ 9. Judicial _____ refers to activism and restraint, while political ideology refers to liberalism or conservatism.
- ☐ 10. Remember, despite what you may hear, all _____ are highly political.



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

1. _____

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Answer Key

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- ☐ 1. Justices, especially on the Supreme Court, are supposed to be independent, but that doesn't mean they make their decisions in a vacuum.
- ☐ 2. The President has minimal effect on judicial decisions although he's somewhat influential on lower court justices who might one day want to be on the Supreme Court.
- ☐ 3. Much more influential on justices is history.
- ☐ 4. Party affiliation and political ideology are certainly important in the selection process.
- ☐ 5. Judicial activism is the idea that the Court should act as an instrument of policy.
- ☐ 6. Judicial restraint, as the name implies, is the idea that judges should pay close attention to the precedent when they make their decisions, and that any changes that they make to the law should be incremental.
- ☐ 7. Judicial restraint is often equated with conservatism, which makes sense, as conservatives generally are against change.
- ☐ 8. The conservatives were all appointed by Republican presidents and the liberals by Democratic presidents.
- ☐ 9. Judicial philosophy refers to activism and restraint, while political ideology refers to liberalism or conservatism.
- ☐ 10. Remember, despite what you may hear, all decisions are highly political.