

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

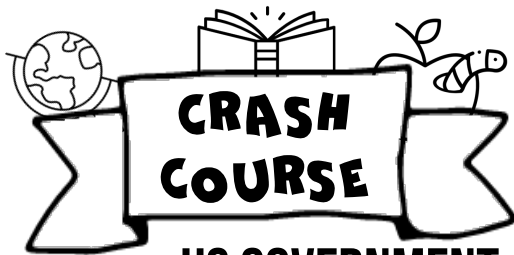
Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

## 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.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Teacher: \_\_\_\_\_

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

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

1. \_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

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

- ☐ 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.



Name \_\_\_\_\_

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**Answer Key**

## 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 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.