

Basics of the FEDERAL COURTS

LECTURE KIT

95-slide deck covering

- ✓ District, Circuit, & Supreme Court
- ✓ Framers' Intents & Formation
- ✓ Judicial Review, Restraint, & Activism
- ✓ Textualist, Originalist, & Living Constitutionalist
- ✓ Unofficial Requirements
- ✓ Majority & Minority Opinions
- ✓ Landmark & Recent Case Examples

If you're new to Civics, this is a **MUST-HAVE!**

JUDICIAL BRANCH

Foundations & Setup
Roles & Responsibilities
Landmark Decisions & Interpretations

What is a JUDICIAL BRANCH?

The **inter**
The **defe**
Not e

What does it take to be a FEDERAL JUDGE?

- Appointed by President
- Defend the Constitution
- Be well-experienced
- Be analytical & articulate

What is the SUPREME COURT?

- Different original & appellate jurisdiction
- Picks cases to hear
- Can't (really) be overturned

What's one **takeaway** you have about the Judicial Branch?

... you **didn't realize** ... al Branch?

... g you still have Branch?

What's your biggest **takeaway** of either *Marbury v. Madison* or *Texas v. Johnson*?

JUDICIARY ACT OF 1789

Created Supreme Court with 6 Justices

LANDMARK CASE "TESTS"

Guidelines for future situations to know boundaries of rights & government's power

OVERTURNING THE SUPREME COURT

- Passing a Constitutional amendment
- Overturing own precedent

TEXAS V. JOHNSON (1989)

Can burning the American flag be punishable, or is it an expression of free speech?

MARBUY V. MADISON (1803)

Adams bitterly lost to Jefferson in 1800

Appointed a bunch of "midnight justices"

One ju

PLESSY V. FERGUSON (1896)

Set the "separate but equal" precedent

Legalized second-class citizenship & discrimination

Stood for 58 years

TAKE A PEEK *inside*



MEXICO'S SUPREME COURT
15-year terms
Held law degree for 10 years



Judicial selection methods in state supreme courts

US JUDGES

SIMILAR
Appointed positions

DIFFERENT
Lifetime with no mandatory retirement age



Comparisons with other countries & state judges for greater contextual understanding

Constitution & Case excerpts to better understand concepts

Pause-and-think questions throughout

[The President] shall nominate, and by and with the advice and consent of the other officers

To separate [black children] from others solely because of their race generates a feeling of inferiority as to their status in the community that may affect their hearts and minds in a way unlikely to ever be undone.

We conclude that in the field of public education, the doctrine of "separate but equal" has no place. Separate educational facilities are inherently unequal. Therefore, we hold that the plaintiffs are, deprived of the equal protection of the laws guaranteed by the Fourteenth Amendment.

BROWN V. BOARD DECISION

What critique do you have about the Supreme Court?
In other words, what's something you'd replace, add, or tweak?

Real-life recent examples of all powers and actions

Easy-to-follow slides with extensive teacher script with all sorts of bonus info

1 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
With confirmation

3 BE WELL-EXPERIENCED
Not just any old law

2 DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION
I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend...

4 BE ANALYTICAL & ARTICULATE
You need to be incredibly well-read, thoughtful, and well-spoken

Let's follow Joe Exotic's legal journey as an example.

Riley v. California (2014)
warrant needed to search cell phone

Brandenburg v. Ohio (1969)
Imminent Lawless Action Test:
Can limit "likely to incite" speech

Out of over 25,500 Supreme Court decisions, only 146 are considered overturns.

Don't just cover the **what**;
elicit the **why, how** and **so, what**

Everything is editable
for your customizations!

SUPPORTS *included*

Guided & More Scaffold Notes

50 Question Google Doc Test Bank

- ✓ **2 Note options:** Guided notes for on-level, scaffolded, fill-in-the-blank notes for support students (PDF & Google Doc)
- ✓ **Test bank:** 50+ fill-in-the-blank, matching, short answer, and open-ended question bank to make custom embedded quizzes
- ✓ **Teacher notes:** slide-by-slide script & bonus info with every slide
- ✓ **Slides:** Uncluttered, clean design; comes in both PowerPoint & Google Slide

DOWNLOAD AND GO!

FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

Will this work for middle school?

This is designed for and written at a **high school level**. If your students are advanced and you are willing to edit, it may work, but I can't guarantee anything. I use these materials with my mixed-ability on-level 12th grade Civics class.

Can I use this in a homeschooling setting?

Definitely! The slides carry you and your students **detail by detail through all the important aspects** of this branch. And every slide contains an **extensive script to read along with each side** – no background knowledge needed on your part! And the **self-guided note-taking forms** and **bank of quiz questions** ensure your student(s) learn the material at a high level.

Is this editable?

Yes! All student materials come with a digital Google file version that is editable for the exclusive purpose for you to customize it to meet your students needs and make accommodations.

Will this work for my <insert unique setting here> classroom?

The preview and product description are **extremely detailed**—be sure to take a close look. Also know that all student materials comes with an editable, digital version. If you still have questions, feel free to **leave a Q&A!**

What standards does this address?

Several! This kit supports standards from various states, including:

Analyze the structure and functions of the judicial branch, including the federal court system and types of jurisdictions -- Describe the role of the Supreme Court and the lesser federal courts -- Describe judicial tenure, appointment method, & judicial review – Explain the federal courts system and how judges interpret law -- Describe various landmark Supreme Court cases, relating them to the Constitution and Bill of Rights