

EVERYTHING TO TEACH THE JUDICIAL BRANCH

3-4 week complete unit

Cover this core content **with confidence**
without getting lost in the weeds!

- ✓ Detailed 95-slide **lecture kit** with guided notes and assessment questions
- ✓ 4 judicial branch **podcast episodes** with guided notes
- ✓ Interpreting the law **simulation**
- ✓ Landmark Supreme Court Case **poster & gallery walk activity**
- ✓ Current Supreme Court **case docket** and **Justice research activities**
- ✓ Capstone **research essay project** on judicial term limits
- ✓ **100+ Reviews Cards** with 10+ game ideas

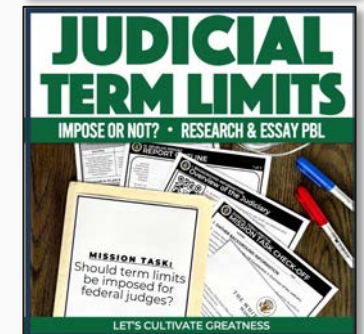
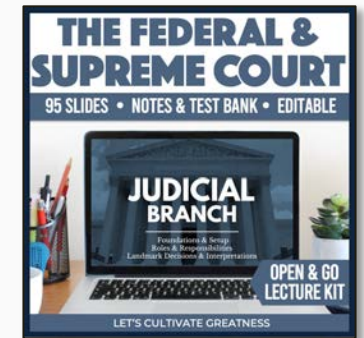
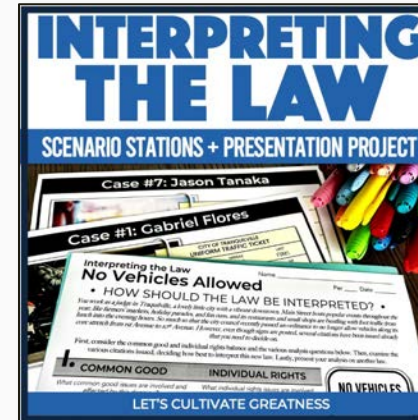
PRINT & DIGITAL OPTIONS INCLUDED



TOPICS & STANDARDS

covered

- ✓ **Structure and functions** of the judicial branch, including the federal court system and types of jurisdictions
- ✓ **Relationship with the other branches**, including how it checks and balances them and how their different
- ✓ **Article III provisions** on judicial tenure, appointments, salaries, & jurisdictions; the **Judiciary Act of 1789**
- ✓ **Judicial review** and the Supremacy Clause
- ✓ **Process for interpreting law** that judges do
- ✓ **Landmark Supreme Court cases** relating to the Constitution and Bill of Rights
- ✓ **Current issues** like term limits and current docket



EACH ACTIVITY IS STAND-ALONE LETTING YOU PLUG & PLAY TO FIT YOUR CLASSROOM NEEDS

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!**



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** ...

... 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
Overturning 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

ANOTHER JIM CROW CAN CASE
Arrest of a Negro Traveler Who Refused to Riding With the White People.
On Tuesday evening a negro named Adolph Davis was arrested by Patrol Officers Carr on the East Louisiana Street and taken to the waiting room at 411 of 10th, where he was held until...

TAKE A FURTHER PEEK *inside*

Constitution & Case excerpts to better understand concepts

Pause-and-think questions throughout

Real-life recent examples of all powers and actions

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

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

[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?

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



US JUDGES

SIMILAR
Appointed positions

DIFFERENT
Lifetime with no mandatory retirement age



1 APPOINTED BY THE PRESIDENT
With confirmation

3 BE WELL-EXPERIENCED
Not just any old law

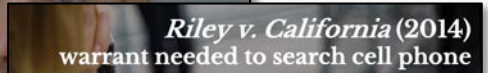
2 DEFEND THE CONSTITUTION
I do solemnly swear that I will support and defend...

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.



JUDICIAL BRANCH

podcast kit

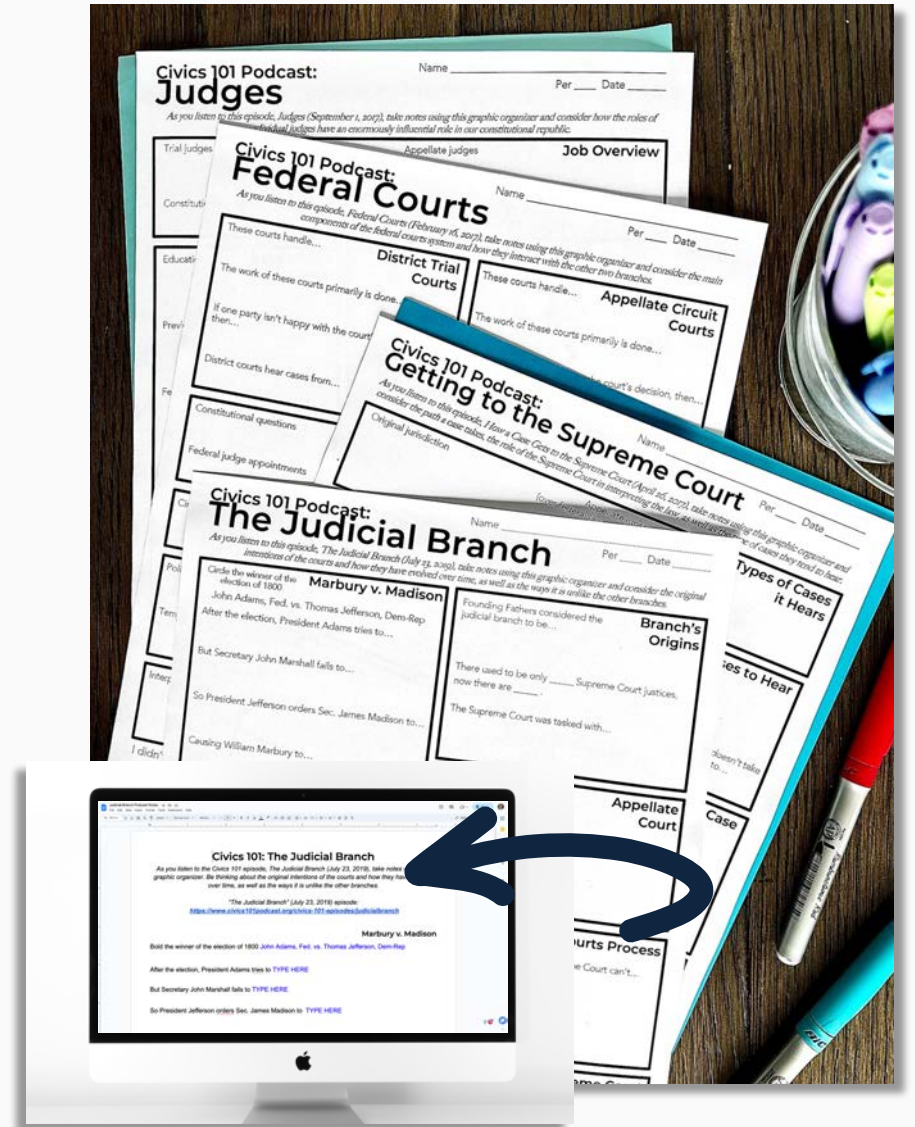
This is the **perfect alternative** to a lecture day, rapid-fire YouTube videos, and your dry textbook.

Perfect for adding **student choice** for how they learn the content!

TOPICS COVERED

- ✓ Judicial Branch overview, including its structure and how it operates
- ✓ The Federal Courts System
- ✓ How a Case Gets to the Supreme Court
- ✓ What it Takes & Means to be a Federal Judge

GUIDED NOTES WITH ANSWER KEYS



3 INTERPRETING THE LAW

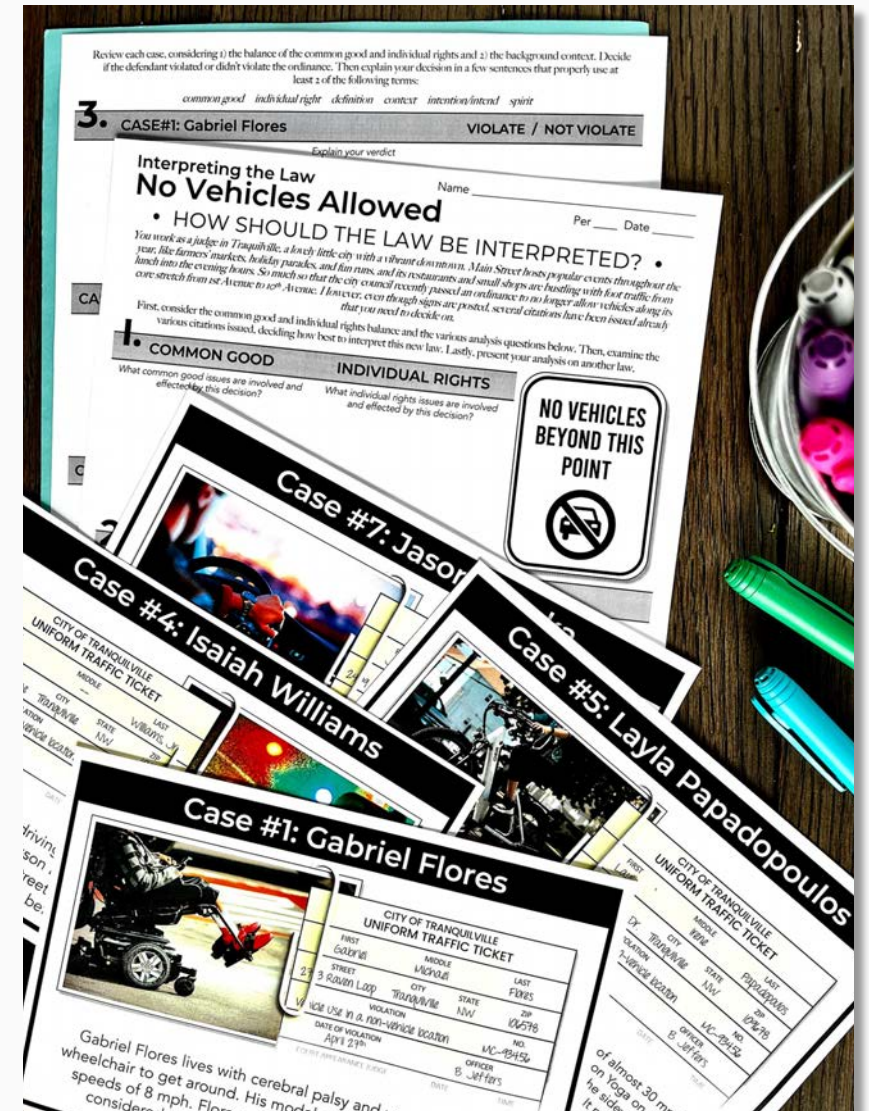
simulation

We teach that judges **interpret the law**... but what does that mean?

Use this fun activity kit to have students **role-playing the job** of a local judge tasked with deciding who exactly violated a new city ordinance banning vehicles on Main Street

3-PART SIMULATION KIT INCLUDES

- ✓ **Pre-Simulation Discussion Questions:** to prepare, like a judge would, by considering the balance of *common good vs. individual rights* and the *context and intentions* of the law
- ✓ **7 Scenarios Station Cards:** for students to analyze and decide if seven different people violated the city ordinance or not
- ✓ **Case Analysis Presentation:** students work in small groups to select one more law to analyze using the same questioning and critical thinking processes and present their conclusion (4 additional laws included)
- ✓ **Teacher Supports:** Step-by-step detailed lesson plans and options for implementing materials to meet your classroom needs best



LANDMARK SUPREME COURT CASES

poster kit

Students **research cases** that have shaped our modern rights of expression, privacy, criminal proceedings, and equal treatment.

Then **create posters** to teach others about their cases.

KIT INCLUDES

- ✓ **Background Information:** Guided notes to accompany the Civics 101 episode, *“How a Case Gets to the Supreme Court”*
- ✓ **Project Overview:** project sheet with directions, requirements, and rubrics
- ✓ **Sample Poster:** on the case *Texas v. Johnson*
- ✓ **2 Case Sign-Up Sheet:** blank and pre-filled with **40** landmark cases on free expression, privacy, criminal proceedings, and equality
- ✓ **Gallery Walk:** guided notes for learning from the posters
- ✓ **Tarsia Puzzle & Quiz:** fun assessment check of cases
- ✓ **Teacher Supports:** Step-by-step detailed lesson plans and answer keys



CURRENT SUPREME COURT & DOCKET

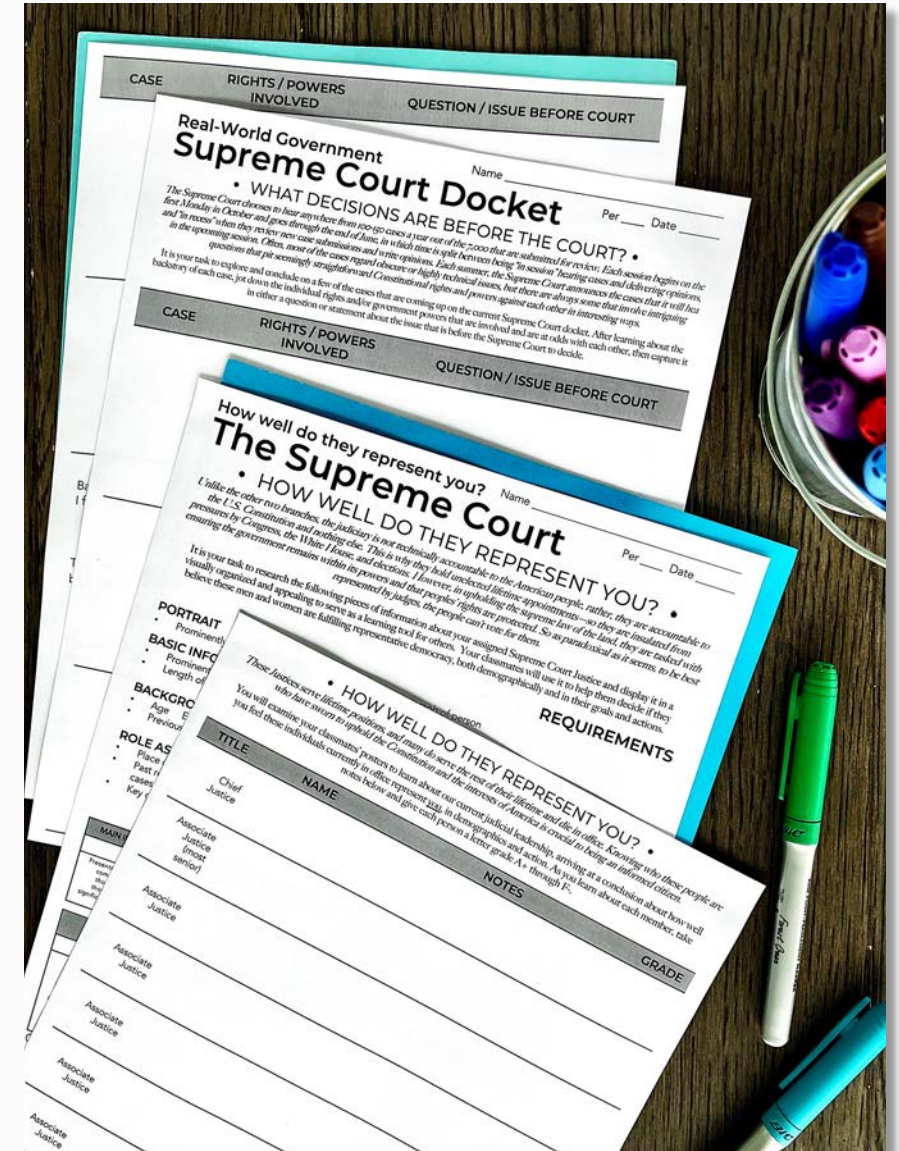
activities

Students explore the **highly-watched cases** on the current Supreme Court docket and the 9 current **Supreme Court Justices**.

2-PART KIT INCLUDES

- ✓ **Current Docket:** explore cases the news outlets are watching this current Supreme Court season; follow them the rest of your course as they are heard and decided on
- ✓ **Current Justices:** assign students one of 9 Supreme Court Justices to research and create a one-pager poster, then conduct a gallery walk to teach classmates about who currently is deciding our most important rights
- ✓ **Teacher Supports:** Step-by-step detailed lesson plans, helpful links, rubrics, and sample one-pager poster

THESE TWO BONUS ACTIVITIES AREN'T AVAILABLE ON THEIR OWN



JUDICIAL TERM LIMITS

research PBL

Explore this constitutional issue first-hand as your students **take on the role of advisors** to the President.

Students **research & write thesis-driven essays** recommending whether to impose term limits or a mandatory retirement age for federal judges.

WHAT'S INCLUDED

- ✓ Background Information Readings
- ✓ Constitution & Federalist Excerpts
- ✓ Project Check-Off, Research, & Planning Forms
- ✓ Student-Friendly Rubrics & Self-Assessment
- ✓ How-To Skill Reference Sheets
- ✓ Supports & Scaffolds Throughout



TAKE A FURTHER PEEK *inside*



Step-by-step teachers and student directions
Background readings & provided data displays
Research notes graphic organizers
Writing outline form and supports

Makes a perfect **unit assessment** or **capstone research project!**



REVIEW CARD DECK

with games

This is the perfect non-screen tool to help students **refresh, solidify, and more deeply understand** the inner workings of the Judicial Branch!

KIT INCLUDES

52 concept and description cards

Header title cards for sorting

16 image cards

10+ review game ideas

Make-your-own template cards

ENCOURAGE COOPERATION & STUDENT TALK WITH THESE NON-SCREEN GAMES



Create Individual Flip Decks

Sort Into Categories



Match Concepts with Images

FREQUENTLY ASKED *questions*

Will this work for middle school?

These activities are designed for and written at a **high school level**. If your students are advanced or you are willing to make edits, it may work. I use these materials with my very mixed-ability on-level 12th grade Civics class.

Look closely at the previews or purchase one of the resources to sample. If you end up getting this unit bundle, you can **request a refund** from TPT for that resource.

Is this editable?

Yes! Each activity comes with a digital Google file version that is editable for the exclusive purpose for you to customize it to meet your students needs.

Is there a pacing guide?

No. This is a **unit bundle**, meaning it's a collection of all the **standalone resources** you need to cover this topic well. Each resource lists an overall suggested time allotment and suggested times for each segment of the lesson sequence.

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!**

How is this different from the units in the LCG full-course curriculum?

This bundle contains **plug-and-play resources**, meaning each are self-contained and they're perfect to use interchangeably with your existing materials. They also dive a bit deeper, ensuring full coverage of even the most stringent state standards.

The full-course units each center on inquiry questions, covering topics but all through a lens of the inquiry. Those units are best for teachers in a more flexible situation who are looking to try a more inquiry-driven approach.