

**Introduction to Law**  
**Chapter 5 Activity**  
**“Who Should be on the Supreme Court?”**

**Name:**  
**Date:**



The President of the United States selects nominees for all federal judgeships – including the U.S. Supreme Court justices – “with the advice and consent of the Senate”. The Senate must approve all nominees before they are appointed. Once appointed, justices serve for life unless they resign or are impeached. When the Senate receives a nominee from the President, it sends the nomination to the Senate Judiciary Committee for consideration. The committee schedules a hearing on the nomination. After the hearing, the committee votes. If a majority votes in favor of the nominee, the nomination is sent to the full Senate for consideration. If the majority of the Senate also votes for the nominee, the nominee is confirmed.

1. You are the legal counsel to the President. One of the justices has just announced his resignation. Many groups and individuals are suggesting names of people they think should be nominated by the President. **Write a memo to the President describing the type of person who should be nominated to the U.S. Supreme Court.** (50 word minimum)

2. As legal counsel to the President, look at the following characteristics of potential Supreme Court nominees. Rank them from most important to least important. Be prepared to give your reasons.

\_\_\_\_\_ 45 years old

\_\_\_\_\_ Hispanic American

\_\_\_\_\_ female

\_\_\_\_\_ graduated first in class from a top law school

\_\_\_\_\_ respected trial court judge

\_\_\_\_\_ smoked marijuana while a law professor 20 years ago

\_\_\_\_\_ believes that affirmative action is unconstitutional

\_\_\_\_\_ lives in California (assume there are no current justices from the West Coast)

\_\_\_\_\_ practicing Catholic (assume there are no Catholics at present on the Court)