



CONTENT VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 8

The Judicial Branch

Directions: Select one of the Content Vocabulary terms from the box and write it in the blank of the correct sentence below.

exclusive jurisdiction	stare decisis	unanimous opinion
district court	original jurisdiction	appeals court
jurisdiction	circuit	remand
opinion	precedent	constitutional
judicial review	docket	brief
majority opinion	dissenting opinion	concurring opinion
appellate jurisdiction	concurrent jurisdiction	

Section 1

1. Sometimes state and federal courts have _____ in that they can both hear the same case.
2. _____ is a court's authority to hear and decide cases.
3. When cases can be heard only in a federal court and in no other court, it is called _____.
4. A particular geographic area that is covered by a court of appeals is a _____.

Section 2

5. A(n) _____ reviews decisions made in lower district courts.
6. There are 94 _____(s) in the United States where trials are held and lawsuits begin.
7. A judge's _____ offers a detailed explanation of the legal thinking behind the court's decision.
8. District courts have _____ because they have the authority to hear cases for the first time.
9. When appeals courts _____ a case, they reverse the original ruling and send the case back to a lower court to be retried.



CONTENT VOCABULARY ACTIVITY 8 (continued)

The Judicial Branch

10. Appeals courts have the authority to hear a case from a lower court because they have _____.
11. A judge's opinion sets a _____ for all the courts and agencies in the district by providing a model upon which to base their decisions in similar cases.

Section 3

12. When the Supreme Court decides whether a law is _____, it exercises its power to determine whether the law is allowed by the Constitution.
13. The process by which the Supreme Court decides whether a law goes against the Constitution is called _____.

Section 4

14. Judges use the term _____, or "let the decision stand," as a guiding principle in decision making.
15. The view of most of the justices on a case is called a _____.
16. When a justice votes with the majority but for reasons different than those of other justices, he or she may write a _____.
17. Lawyers on each side of a case write a _____ that describes to court justices each position.
18. At the Supreme Court level, justices determine which cases will be placed on the court _____ for further review.
19. When a justice disagrees with the opinion of the majority on a case, he or she may issue a _____.
20. When all justices vote the same way, the court issues a _____.