

Unit 6 Courts Project

Project Overview:

Throughout this unit on the Judicial Branch, you will work in a group assigned by the teacher to create a Courts PowerPoint Presentation. The presentation will include information from group research about the landmark cases, Chief Justice, and judicial philosophy of the group's assigned court. The final product is due at the end of the unit, but each lesson requires certain steps toward the completion of the project.

Information for the presentation may be found within the lesson or from outside research. If information from outside sources is included, it should be cited using the correct [MLA citation](#) information. All information in the presentation should be written in your own words and phrases.

Group Formation:

The teacher will form groups of three to four students and assign a Court to each group to research. Each member of the group will then choose a topic and a role.

Project Topics and Roles:

Each member of the group has two roles for this project. Everyone has the role of **Researcher**. Every group member is responsible for researching the information for their topic that will be compiled into 2 to 3 slides within the group presentation. Each student will choose a **topic** to research from their court.

- **Landmark case research** (include the name of your case)
- **Landmark case research** (include the name of your case)
- **Chief Justice research**
- **Landmark case research** (include the name of your case) Groups with four members only

The second **role** is different. Each member of the group must select one of the following roles. Each role comes with unique responsibilities:

- ***Editor-in-Chief:** Responsible for proof reading and compiling the group's work into a final PowerPoint project. The Editor-in-Chief should be someone who enjoys leadership and meets deadlines. The Editor-in-Chief will be responsible for research on his or her individual topic; however, he or she will be exempt from the research on "Judicial Philosophy" and "Overall Importance of the Court" due to extra duties related to compiling individual work into a group presentation.
- **Associate Editor:** Responsible for checking the layout for the PowerPoint Slides and assisting the Editor-in-Chief. The Associate Editor should be someone who is organized and has a good sense of design.
- **Discussion Leader:** Responsible for communication with the teacher throughout each lesson and for leading all of the group discussions. The Discussion Leader should be someone who feels comfortable communicating with the teacher and with peers.

- **Associate Editor:** Responsible for checking the layout for the PowerPoint Slides and assisting the Editor-in-Chief. The Associate Editor should be someone who is organized and has a good sense of design. **Groups with four members only**

Project Grades:

There are two main categories of grades for this project:

Each lesson will have a Discussion and/or Task with specific instructions. The point value for each will depend on what is required.

1. Discussions: each lesson has a project discussion associated with it. Students should receive 5 participation points for contributing during each discussion.
2. Individual Work: each student will individually research and write the information for 2 to 3 slides in the presentation. Students should receive individual grades for the assigned tasks.

Project Steps by Lesson: Detailed directions are provided within each lesson.

<i>Lesson 6.01 Overview of the Judicial Branch</i>
<p>Step One - 6.01 Project Topic and Role Discussion</p> <p>Students should introduce themselves to their group mates. Then, decide as a group who will take on each topic and role.</p>
<p>Step Two – 6.01 Project Topic Dropbox</p> <p>Now that you have selected a role and topic to research and introduced yourself to your group members, you should complete 6.01 Project Topic and Role Selection and submit it to 6.01 Project Topic Dropbox.</p>

<i>Lesson 6.02 Structure of the Federal Court System</i>
<p>Step Three – 6.02 Project Sources and Philosophy Dropbox</p> <p>Each group member should complete an individual 6.02 Project Sources and Philosophy document and submit it to the 6.02 Project Sources and Philosophy Dropbox. Reminder: Each group member will submit an individual document with their own resources to the dropbox.</p> <p>For this portion of your collaborative project assignment, submit at least 5 possible websites to your teacher. Remember, you should only select credible sources, so avoid Wikipedia and focus on collecting information from .org, .gov, or .edu websites. You may also want to use the Alabama Virtual Library, especially the History Reference Center and Student Research Center databases.</p> <p>Research information about your group’s court, particularly the Chief Justice, to find information about their judicial philosophy. Write a paragraph that summarizes what you learned from your research on the judicial philosophy of your group’s court. The paragraph should include at least five sentences.</p>

Judicial philosophy is basically where a judge stands concerning judicial restraint (interpreting the Constitution focusing on the Framers' original intent) and judicial activism (the idea that the Constitution should be more broadly interpreted to fit changing values and circumstances). Visit [The Future of the Court](#) and [Biographies of the Robes](#) to find more information about judicial philosophy.

Step Four - 6.02 Project Source and Philosophy Discussion

Group Project Step #4

After you complete Task #3, you should share the information with your group. The Editor-in-Chief or discussion leader (whichever is first to the discussion board) will start a thread for their group.

- Each group member will respond to this thread and post their sources for the Source slide using [MLA format](#).
- Each group member will also post the information they have researched concerning the philosophy of the court for the Judicial Philosophy slide. The Editor-in-Chief will be responsible for creating a PowerPoint presentation for the group instead of contributing to the judicial philosophy research. He or she will compile the information from each group member into the group presentation.
- Be sure to make any edits or corrections to your work before posting.

You should also reply to other group member's posts. Post your responses to **6.02 Project Source and Philosophy Discussion**.

Lesson 6.03 Landmark Supreme Court Cases

Step Five - 6.03 Project Draft Discussion

Share your project draft information with your group. Each group member should post their topic and research information. Students should also comment on the research information of other group members. The Editor-in-Chief will copy and paste the research information from each group member to the group presentation.

Step Six - 6.03 Project Draft Dropbox

After posting the research information for your two to three slides in the presentation, submit your information individually for the project draft to the 6.03 Project Draft Dropbox for an individual grade.

Lesson 6.04 Shifting Balance of the Court

Step Seven - 6.04 Project Importance and Feedback Discussion

Now that all group members have posted their research and received feedback, it is time to add the final collaborative research concerning the importance of the Court. You should post research information concerning “Overall Importance of the Court” as well as proof the information compiled by the Editor-in-Chief in the group presentation to this point. You should also provide feedback to other group members. The Editor-in-Chief will create a slide for “Overall Importance of the Court” and add each group members’ information to the presentation.

Step Eight – 6.04 Project Participation Dropbox

Now that we are in the final steps of the collaborative project, it is time to reflect on the role you played in completing your project. Each group member should complete [6.04 Project Participation](#). Take some time with this form and be honest about your contributions to the group. Submit completed document to 6.04 Project Participation Dropbox.

Lesson 6.05 Final Project

Step Nine - 6.05 Final Project Discussion

Throughout this unit on the Judicial Branch, you and the members of your group have worked together to create a Courts PowerPoint Presentation. At this point, the Editor-in-Chief has compiled the work into a final draft and will post it to allow group members to comment. The presentation should include information from your research about the landmark cases, Chief Justice, and judicial philosophy of your group’s assigned court. You should make final comments on your group’s presentation. Finally, you should review the presentations of other groups and comment on their work.

Step Ten – 6.05 Final Project Dropbox

After everyone has commented on the final draft the Editor-in-Chief will make needed edits and distribute it to the group members. Each member of the group will submit the final presentation with their own edits to the **6.05 Final Project Dropbox**