

Vocabulary Activity



Federal and State Court Systems

Content Vocabulary

Directions: From the vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question. Write each word in the blank provided. (**precedent, public defender, prosecutor, judicial review, tribal courts**)

1. Native Americans living on reservations in the United States can use what unique judicial system?

2. Which word refers to the power the Supreme Court has to determine whether a law is unconstitutional?

3. Which word is used to describe a legal principle established by an appellate court decision that lower courts must follow when deciding similar cases?

4. Which word refers to the lawyer who works for the state to defend people who cannot afford to hire their own private lawyer?

5. Which word refers to the lawyer who represents the government in criminal cases?

Directions: Answer each of the following questions. Include the vocabulary words in parentheses in your answers.

6. What is the difference between a jury and a grand jury? (**jury, grand jury**)

7. What is the difference between a dissenting opinion and a concurring opinion? (**dissenting opinion, concurring opinion**)

Vocabulary Activity *cont.*



Federal and State Court Systems

8. What are some of the differences between a court-martial and a civilian criminal trial?
(court-martial)

Directions: For each term in the left column, write the letter of the correct definition in the right column.

- | | |
|----------------------------------|--|
| _____ 9. impartial | a. the fair administration of justice |
| _____ 10. indictment | b. a federal law; a law written by a legislative branch |
| _____ 11. procedural due process | c. unbiased |
| _____ 12. majority opinion | d. in a civil trial, the person who brings the suit to court |
| _____ 13. statute | e. a formal charge of criminal action by a grand jury |
| _____ 14. plaintiff | f. states the decision of the court |

Academic Vocabulary

Directions: Write *S* in the blank before each word that is a synonym (a word with the same or nearly the same meaning) of the listed word. Write *A* in the blank before each word that is an antonym (a word with an opposite or nearly opposite meaning). Each item has more than one correct answer.

15. interpretation

- | | | |
|----------------|---------------------|------------------------|
| _____ analysis | _____ misconception | _____ explanation |
| _____ judgment | _____ ignorance | _____ misunderstanding |

16. obvious

- | | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|------------------|
| _____ clear | _____ straightforward | _____ concealed |
| _____ recognizable | _____ ambiguous | _____ disputable |

17. clarify

- | | | |
|------------------|---------------|----------------|
| _____ complicate | _____ analyze | _____ obscure |
| _____ confuse | _____ resolve | _____ simplify |

18. sufficient

- | | | |
|-----------------|-----------------|--------------------|
| _____ ample | _____ meager | _____ satisfactory |
| _____ deficient | _____ tolerable | _____ inadequate |

Vocabulary Activity *cont.*



Federal and State Court Systems

Directions: From this vocabulary list, choose the best word to answer each question. Write each word in the blank provided. (**expertise, entity, arbitrary**)

19. Which word is used to describe when something is random or by chance rather than by design?

20. Which word can be used to describe the skill or knowledge of a professional, such as a doctor or architect?

21. Which word is used to describe something that has a separate and distinct existence?
