

## **LESSON PLAN: Advice and Consent - The Senate Considers the President's Supreme Court Nominations**

### **Student Resources and Vocabulary**

- **The Big Nine**  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec01/supreme\\_court.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/july-dec01/supreme_court.html)
- **NewsHour discussion on judicial nominations**  
[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/law/jan-june01/judges\\_5-9.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/bb/law/jan-june01/judges_5-9.html)
- **Truman Library lesson on the three branches and checks and balances**  
[http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/teacher\\_lessons/3branches/3b\\_toc.htm](http://www.trumanlibrary.org/whistlestop/teacher_lessons/3branches/3b_toc.htm)

### **Government Sites:**

- **U.S. Senate reference site on nominations**  
[http://www.senate.gov/reference/reference\\_index\\_subjects/Nominations\\_vrd.htm](http://www.senate.gov/reference/reference_index_subjects/Nominations_vrd.htm)
- **U.S. Supreme Court**  
<http://www.supremecourtus.gov/>

### **Interest Groups Sites:**

- **Alliance for Justice**  
<http://www.allianceforjustice.org/>
- **American Center for Law and Justice**  
<http://www.aclj.org/>
- **Family Research Council**  
<http://www.frc.org/>
- **Focus on the Family**  
<http://www.family.org/>
- **MoveOn.org**  
<http://www.moveon.org/>
- **NARAL (National Abortion Reproductive Rights Action League)**  
<http://www.naral.org/>
- **People for the American Way**  
<http://www.pfaw.org/pfaw/general/default.aspx?oid=>
- **Progress for America**  
<http://www.progressforamerica.com/>

## Vocabulary:

- **unconstitutional:** any law or action (usually by the government or a representative of the government) that runs counter to the written letter or case law (previous decisions) of the U.S. Constitution.
- **activism** (or an activist judge or justice): meaning a judge who allegedly interprets the law in a pro-active way that for some, goes beyond what the framers of the Constitution intended.
- **conservatism:** when a judge or justice interprets the law in a way that adheres to conservative values.
- **constitutionalist:** meaning a judge who interprets the law in a way that follows the original interpretation of the Constitution.
- **obstructionism:** when Congressional members of either party slow down or obstruct the confirmation process.
- **ideologue:** one who supports some ideology or belief in specific ideas. Usually, ideologues are considered to have narrow points of view.
- **bipartisanship:** a word used to describe something supported or agreed upon by two parties, especially two major political parties.
- **partisan politics:** the passionate, sometimes militant support or promotion of a particular political party, cause, faction, person, or idea.
- **rhetoric:** generally, the art or study of using language effectively and persuasively, but often times when used in political circles, a style of speaking or writing that is elaborate, insincere, or exaggerated; used to raise the emotions.
- **collegial:** characterized by or having power and authority equally among people. Working together.
- **histrionics:** exaggerated emotional behavior calculated for effect.
- **jurisprudence:** knowledge or skill in law and the practice of law.