

## Student Worksheet

### DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

### STORY

**Supreme Court Justice Retiring; Obama Will Help Shape High Court**, 05/01/2009

[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/souter\\_05-01.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/us/jan-june09/souter_05-01.html)

### READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

**1. Who is David Souter?**

**2. Why might President Obama choose a woman to replace David Souter?**

**3. What are the three branches of government? How does the Supreme Court relate to each of them?**

**4. What is judicial review?**

**5. Who appointed Souter, why was that president disappointed?**

**6. What evidence suggests Souter is a moderate judge?**

**7. Who are some possible replacements for David Souter?**

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

**1. Why do you think David Souter is retiring?**

**2. What factors do you think President Obama is considering as he chooses a replacement?**

**3. President Obama taught constitutional law at the University of Chicago- how do you think that affects his approach to the law and to the Supreme Court?**

**4. What experience and traits do you think are important for a Supreme Court justice?**

**5. Use this lesson plan to explore how the Supreme Court affects your life.**

**[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/history/scotus\\_function.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/history/scotus_function.html)**

**and these lesson plans to look at the confirmation process**

**[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/confirm2\\_7-20.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/confirm2_7-20.html)**

**[http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/scotus\\_nominations.html](http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/teachers/lessonplans/socialstudies/scotus_nominations.html)**

**Extension Activity**

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.