

icivics supreme court nomination game

icivics supreme court nomination game is an engaging educational tool designed to teach players about the complex process of nominating and confirming justices to the United States Supreme Court. This interactive game offers a unique simulation experience, allowing users to step into the shoes of the President and Senate to navigate the challenges involved in selecting a Supreme Court nominee. By playing the icivics supreme court nomination game, learners gain insights into the constitutional procedures, political considerations, and strategic decision-making that shape the highest court in the nation. This article explores the gameplay mechanics, educational benefits, and the broader civic context that the game highlights. Additionally, it discusses how the icivics platform supports civic education through gamified learning experiences centered around government institutions. Below is an overview of the main topics covered in this comprehensive article about the icivics supreme court nomination game.

- Understanding the icivics Supreme Court Nomination Game
- Gameplay Features and Mechanics
- Educational Benefits of the Nomination Game
- The Role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. Government
- How the Game Reflects Real-World Nomination Processes
- Using the Game in Classroom and Civic Education

Understanding the icivics Supreme Court Nomination Game

The icivics supreme court nomination game is an interactive simulation developed by iCivics, a nonprofit organization dedicated to increasing civic knowledge and engagement. The game centers on the constitutional procedure for appointing justices to the Supreme Court, providing players with a practical understanding of this critical aspect of the American political system. Participants assume the role of the President tasked with selecting a nominee, and later, the Senate responsible for confirming or rejecting the candidate. This dual perspective emphasizes the checks and balances embedded in the U.S. Constitution and illustrates the political dynamics that influence judicial appointments.

Purpose and Objectives

The primary objective of the icivics supreme court nomination game is to educate players about the nomination and confirmation process in an immersive and engaging manner. The game aims to clarify the roles of the executive and legislative branches in judicial appointments while highlighting the importance of the Supreme Court in interpreting laws and shaping public policy. By simulating real-world scenarios, the game encourages critical thinking, decision-making, and an appreciation for the complexities of governance.

Gameplay Features and Mechanics

At its core, the icivics supreme court nomination game employs a turn-based format where players make strategic choices as the President and the Senate. The game's design incorporates various elements such as candidate evaluation, political considerations, public opinion, and Senate hearings to create a realistic and challenging experience.

Nominee Selection Process

As the President, players review profiles of potential nominees, considering factors like judicial philosophy, background, experience, and ideological alignment. The game presents trade-offs between selecting a candidate who aligns closely with the player's political goals and one who might have a better chance of Senate confirmation. This decision-making process mimics the real-life balancing act faced by U.S. Presidents during Supreme Court nominations.

Senate Confirmation Dynamics

After the nomination, players switch roles to the Senate, where they evaluate the candidate through hearings and debates. Players must weigh evidence, public opinion, and political alliances to decide whether to confirm or reject the nominee. The game integrates realistic scenarios such as opposition from interest groups, media coverage, and partisan politics, which impact the confirmation outcome.

Interactive Elements and Feedback

The game provides immediate feedback on player choices, explaining the consequences and educating users on constitutional principles and political strategy. This interactive approach reinforces learning objectives and keeps users engaged throughout the process.

Educational Benefits of the Nomination Game

The icivics supreme court nomination game offers significant educational value by combining interactive gameplay with civic learning standards. It supports the development of critical thinking skills and deepens understanding of American government institutions.

Enhancing Civic Knowledge

By simulating the nomination and confirmation process, the game helps players grasp the constitutional framework underpinning the Supreme Court's composition. Users learn about the separation of powers, the roles of the President and Senate, and the importance of judicial independence.

Developing Decision-Making Skills

The game challenges players to analyze multiple factors and anticipate consequences, fostering decision-making and problem-solving abilities. This experiential learning approach enables users to appreciate the complexities of political negotiations and the impact of judicial appointments on American society.

Engagement Through Gamification

The use of gamification techniques, such as scoring, scenario variation, and interactive dialogue, makes learning about the Supreme Court nomination process accessible and enjoyable. This engagement is especially effective for younger audiences, including middle and high school students.

The Role of the Supreme Court in the U.S. Government

Understanding the significance of the Supreme Court is essential to appreciating the icivics supreme court nomination game. The Supreme Court serves as the highest judicial authority in the United States, tasked with interpreting the Constitution and ensuring laws comply with constitutional principles.

Judicial Review and Constitutional Interpretation

The Supreme Court's power of judicial review allows it to invalidate laws and executive actions that conflict with the Constitution. This authority makes the appointment of justices profoundly impactful on American law and policy,

underscoring why the nomination process is highly scrutinized and politically charged.

Lifetime Tenure and Its Implications

Justices serve lifetime appointments, which means their influence can extend for decades beyond the appointing President's term. This permanence creates high stakes for both the executive and legislative branches during the nomination process, as each appointment shapes the Court's ideological balance.

How the Game Reflects Real-World Nomination Processes

The icivics supreme court nomination game mirrors many aspects of the actual nomination and confirmation process, providing players with an authentic experience informed by historical and contemporary examples.

Balancing Political Considerations

The game highlights how Presidents must consider ideology, electability, and Senate composition when choosing nominees. It also demonstrates the Senate's role in scrutinizing candidates' qualifications and political backgrounds, reflecting the real-world interplay between branches of government.

Managing Public Opinion and Media Influence

Public opinion and media coverage often shape the confirmation process. The game incorporates these dynamics by simulating public reactions and interest group pressures, educating players on the broader political environment that influences nominations.

Strategic Decision-Making and Negotiations

Players experience the negotiation and compromise required to secure confirmation votes, reflecting the political complexity inherent in Supreme Court appointments. This strategic element underscores the game's educational focus on understanding governance as a multifaceted process.

Using the Game in Classroom and Civic Education

The icivics supreme court nomination game serves as a valuable resource for

educators aiming to teach civics, government, and American history. Its interactive nature supports diverse learning styles and encourages active participation.

Integration into Curriculum

Teachers can incorporate the game into lessons on the judicial branch, constitutional law, or political science courses. It complements traditional teaching methods by providing a hands-on approach that helps students internalize abstract concepts.

Promoting Civic Engagement

By engaging students with realistic simulations of government processes, the game fosters a deeper interest in civic participation and awareness of the importance of the judicial system. It encourages learners to think critically about the role of the Supreme Court in democracy.

Assessment and Discussion Opportunities

The game's scenarios and outcomes provide a basis for classroom discussions, debates, and assessments. Educators can use gameplay experiences to evaluate understanding and stimulate conversations about constitutional principles and political strategy.

Key Features of the icivics Supreme Court Nomination Game

- Role-playing as both President and Senate to understand different perspectives
- Evaluation of nominees based on qualifications, ideology, and political viability
- Simulated Senate hearings with opportunities to question nominees
- Consideration of public opinion, interest groups, and political alliances
- Immediate feedback explaining the consequences of player decisions
- Educational content aligned with civics standards and constitutional principles

Frequently Asked Questions

What is the objective of the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game?

The objective of the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game is to guide players through the process of nominating and confirming a Supreme Court Justice, teaching them about the constitutional roles, political considerations, and steps involved.

How does the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game teach players about the nomination process?

The game simulates the real-life steps of nominating a Supreme Court Justice, including evaluating candidates, considering political factors, and undergoing Senate confirmation hearings, helping players understand the complexities of the process.

Who created the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game?

The iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game was created by iCivics, an educational organization founded by former Supreme Court Justice Sandra Day O'Connor to promote civic education.

What roles do players take on in the Supreme Court Nomination game?

Players take on the role of the President of the United States, responsible for selecting a nominee to the Supreme Court and navigating the confirmation process.

Can the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game be used in classrooms?

Yes, the game is designed as an educational tool and is widely used in classrooms to help students learn about the Supreme Court nomination and confirmation process.

What skills can players develop by playing the Supreme Court Nomination game?

Players develop critical thinking, decision-making, and an understanding of the U.S. constitutional system, including the checks and balances involved in Supreme Court nominations.

Is the Supreme Court Nomination game part of a larger series of educational games?

Yes, it is part of the iCivics suite of games, which are designed to teach various aspects of American government and civics through interactive gameplay.

How realistic is the Supreme Court Nomination game compared to the actual nomination process?

The game provides a simplified but accurate representation of the nomination and confirmation process, highlighting key stages such as candidate evaluation and Senate hearings while making it accessible for learners.

Are there multiple outcomes in the Supreme Court Nomination game?

Yes, depending on the decisions players make regarding nominees and strategies, the game can have different outcomes, illustrating the challenges of the nomination process.

Where can I play the iCivics Supreme Court Nomination game?

The game is available for free on the official iCivics website and can also be accessed via some educational platforms and apps that feature iCivics content.

Additional Resources

1. The Supreme Court and You: Understanding Judicial Nominations

This book offers a comprehensive overview of the Supreme Court nomination process in the United States. It breaks down the roles of the President, the Senate, and the public in selecting justices. Readers will gain insight into key historical nominations and the political dynamics involved.

2. Judges Under the Microscope: The Politics of Supreme Court Appointments

Delving into the political strategies behind Supreme Court nominations, this book explores how ideological battles shape the judiciary. It highlights landmark confirmation hearings and the evolving criteria for nominees. Ideal for readers interested in the intersection of law and politics.

3. Civics in Action: The Supreme Court Nomination Game

Inspired by the iCivics educational game, this book walks readers through the nomination process with interactive scenarios. It encourages critical thinking about the qualities that make a good justice. The book is designed to engage students and educators alike.

4. *The Road to the Bench: Stories of Supreme Court Justices*

This collection of biographies tells the personal and professional journeys of several Supreme Court justices. It emphasizes the nomination and confirmation stages of their careers. Readers will understand the human side of the judicial appointment process.

5. *Checks and Balances: The Senate's Role in Supreme Court Nominations*

Focusing on the Senate's power to confirm or reject nominees, this book examines the constitutional framework and historical precedents. It provides case studies of contentious confirmation battles. The book offers readers a deeper appreciation of legislative checks on executive power.

6. *Justice on Trial: The Confirmation Hearings of Supreme Court Nominees*

This book presents detailed accounts of famous Supreme Court confirmation hearings, highlighting the questions and controversies that arise. It explores how nominees defend their judicial philosophies under scrutiny. Readers gain a behind-the-scenes look at this critical democratic process.

7. *Nominating Justices: The Impact on American Law and Society*

This book analyzes how Supreme Court nominations influence major legal decisions and societal change. It connects the nomination process to landmark rulings on civil rights, freedoms, and government powers. Readers will see the long-term significance of each appointment.

8. *Civics for Kids: Supreme Court and You*

Targeted at younger audiences, this book simplifies the Supreme Court nomination process with colorful illustrations and relatable examples. It aims to build foundational civic knowledge and inspire future participation. Perfect for classrooms and homeschooling.

9. *The Power of the Bench: A Guide to Supreme Court Nomination and Confirmation*

This guidebook breaks down the nomination and confirmation steps with clear explanations and timelines. It includes profiles of recent nominees and tips on how citizens can stay informed and involved. The book serves as a practical resource for anyone interested in civics and government.

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icivics supreme court nomination game: *The Most Influential Women in Politics* Rajdeep Paulus, 2018-07-15 Women have played an essential, although not always equal role in world history. Many women who rose to political leadership ruled over citizens that continued to limit

women's rights, including the right to vote. When given a voice and opportunity, numerous female politicians have transformed legislation and caused a ripple effect across the world. We often strive for a dream or goal when we see that someone like us has reached a similar place. This compilation of women in politics is for all the future female leaders sitting in classrooms and dreaming of change today.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Frontiers in Sociology of Education* Maureen T. Hallinan, 2011-07-13 Scholarly analysis in the sociology of education has burgeoned in recent decades. *Frontiers in Sociology of Education* aims to provide a roadmap for sociologists and other social scientists as they set bold new directions for future research on schools. In Part 1 of this forward-looking volume, the authors present cutting-edge research to set new guidelines for the sociological analysis of schools. In Part 2, notable social scientists, historians, administrators and educators provide a wide-ranging array of perspectives on contemporary education to insure that scholars make creative and broadly informed contributions to the sociological analysis of schools. The contributors to this volume examine events currently influencing education including: globalization, expansion of educational access, the changing significance of religion, new family structures, and curriculum reform. *Frontiers in Sociology of Education* offers an innovative collection of research and ideas aimed at inspiring new analyses of schools better linked to changing societal conditions.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *We Are Makers* Amy Richards, 2019-11-19 MAKERS is the award-winning video collection of women's stories. And we're bringing these inspirational and amazing stories to young readers in a book! Did you know that Kathrine Switzer, the first woman to complete the Boston marathon in 1967, was almost pulled off the course before she could finish the race? And that Mae Jemison, an astronaut, was inspired by a Star Trek character to pursue her passion in science? Behind every successful woman is the fascinating story of how she got to the top. And throughout history, trailblazing women have opened doors for those who followed. Based on the rich collection of interviews and documentaries from MAKERS, this book introduces pioneering women from all walks of life. Readers will get to know these women's hopes, dreams, challenges, and accomplishments in chapters filled with personal stories, historical information, inspiring quotes, and much more. They will learn about the women's movement and its impact today, and about common experiences women have. Most importantly, they'll be inspired to follow their dreams and become MAKERS themselves!

icivics supreme court nomination game: Strategic Selection Christine L. Nemacheck, 2007 In this book, Christine Nemacheck makes use of presidential papers to reconstruct the politics of nominee selection from Herbert Hoover's appointment of Charles Evan Hughes in 1930 through President George W. Bush's nomination of Samuel Alito in 2005. By revealing the pattern of strategic action, Nemacheck takes us a long way toward understanding this critically important part of the American political system.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Seeking Justices Michael Comiskey, 2004 In the long shadows cast by the Robert Bork and Clarence Thomas nominations, Supreme Court confirmations remain highly contentious and controversial. This is due in part to the Senate's increasing reliance upon a much lengthier, much more public, and occasionally raucous confirmation process—in an effort to curb the potential excesses of executive power created by presidents seeking greater control over the Court's ideological composition. Michael Comiskey offers the most comprehensive, systematic, and optimistic analysis of that process to date. Arguing that the process works well and therefore should not be significantly altered, Comiskey convincingly counters those critics who view highly contentious confirmation proceedings as the norm. Senators have every right and a real obligation, he contends, to scrutinize the nominees' constitutional philosophies. He further argues that the media coverage of the Senate's deliberations has worked to improve the level of such scrutiny and that recent presidents have neither exerted excessive influence on the appointment process nor created a politically extreme Court. He also examines the ongoing concern over presidential efforts to pack the court, concluding that stacking the ideological

deck is unlikely. As an exception to the rule, Comiskey analyzes in depth the Thomas confirmation to explain why it was an aberration, offering the most detailed account yet of Thomas's pre-judicial professional and political activities. He argues that the Senate Judiciary Committee abdicated its responsibilities out of deference to Thomas's race. Another of the book's unique features is Comiskey's reassessment of the reputations of twentieth-century Supreme Court justices. Based on a survey of nearly 300 scholars in constitutional law and politics, it shows that the modern confirmation process continues to fill Court vacancies with jurists as capable as those of earlier eras. We have now seen the longest period without a turnover on the Court since the early nineteenth century, making inevitable the appointment of several new justices following the 2004 presidential election. Thus, the timing of the publication of *Seeking Justices* could not be more propitious.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Congressional Service, 2018-09-14 The procedure for appointing a Justice to the Supreme Court is provided for in the U.S. Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause in the Constitution (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. While the process of appointing Justices has undergone some changes over two centuries, its most essential feature-the sharing of power between the President and the Senate-has remained unchanged: to receive lifetime appointment to the Court, one must first be formally selected (nominated) by the President and then approved (confirmed) by the Senate. For the President, the appointment of a Supreme Court Justice can be a notable measure by which history will judge his Presidency. For the Senate, a decision to confirm is a solemn matter as well, for it is the Senate alone, through its Advice and Consent function, without any formal involvement of the House of Representatives, which acts as a safeguard on the President's judgment. This report provides information and analysis related to the final stage of the confirmation process for a nomination to the Supreme Court-the consideration of the nomination by the full Senate, including floor debate and the vote on whether to approve the nomination. Traditionally, the Senate has tended to be less deferential to the President in his choice of Supreme Court Justices than in his appointment of persons to high executive branch positions. The more exacting standard usually applied to Supreme Court nominations reflects the special importance of the Court, coequal to and independent of the presidency and Congress. Senators are also mindful that Justices-unlike persons elected to legislative office or confirmed to executive branch positions-receive the opportunity to serve a lifetime appointment during good behavior. The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the appointment of the first Justices in 1789 through its consideration of nominee Neil Gorsuch in 2017, the Senate has confirmed 118 Supreme Court nominations out of 162 received. Of the 44 nominations that were not confirmed, 12 were rejected outright in roll-call votes by the Senate, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of substantial committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President, or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Six of the unconfirmed nominations, however, involved individuals who subsequently were renominated and confirmed.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees* John Anthony Maltese, 1998-04-24 In *The Selling of Supreme Court Nominees*, Maltese traces the evolution of the contentious and controversial confirmation process awaiting today's nominees to the nation's highest court. His story begins in the second half of the nineteenth century, when social and technological changes led to the rise of organized interest groups. Despite occasional victories, Maltese explains, structural factors limited the influence of such groups well into this century. Until 1913, senators were not popularly elected but chosen by state legislatures, undermining the potent threat of electoral retaliation that interest groups now enjoy. And until Senate rules changed in 1929, consideration of Supreme Court nominees took place in almost absolute secrecy. Floor debates and the final Senate vote usually took place in executive session. Even if interest groups could retaliate against senators, they often did not know whom to retaliate against.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Denis Steven

Rutkus, 2005 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an infrequent event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the Supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. The last recess appointments to the Court, made in the 1950s, were controversial, because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. Since the appointment of the first Justices in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 120 Supreme Court nominations out of 154 received. Of the 34 unsuccessful nominations, 11 were rejected in Senate roll-call votes, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Game on Kirk Victor, 2005

icivics supreme court nomination game: Supreme Court Appointment Process

Congressional Service, 2018-07-04 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is of consequence because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine-member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive what can amount to lifetime appointments which, by constitutional design, helps ensure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature-the sharing of power between the President and Senate-has remained unchanged: To receive appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Political considerations typically play an important role in Supreme Court appointments. It is often assumed, for example, that Presidents will be inclined to select a nominee whose political or ideological views appear compatible with their own. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and

the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake. Additionally, over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for professional excellence in a nominee. During recent presidencies, nominees have at the time of nomination, most often, served as U.S. appellate court judges. The integrity and impartiality of an individual have also been important criteria for a President when selecting a nominee for the Court. The speed by which a President selects a nominee for a vacancy has varied during recent presidencies. A President might announce his intention to nominate a particular individual within several days of when a vacancy becomes publicly known, or a President might take multiple weeks or months to announce a nominee. The factors affecting the speed by which a President selects a nominee include whether a President had advance notice of a Justice's plan to retire, as well as when during the calendar year a Justice announces his or her departure from the Court. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. Recess appointments have, at times, been considered controversial because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The last recess appointment to the Court was made in 1958 when President Eisenhower appointed Potter Stewart as an Associate Justice (Justice Stewart was confirmed by the Senate the following year).

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Denis Steven Rutkus, 2006 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the 9-member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint ... Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process by the Senate Judiciary Committee. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the first appointments in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 122 out of 158 Court nominations. A recurring theme in the appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views or there are sharp ideological differences between the President and the Senate.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Supreme Court Appointment Process* Congressional Research Service, 2018-09-06 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is of consequence because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. To receive appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. Specifically, the Judiciary Committee, rather than the Senate as a whole, assumes the principal responsibility for investigating the background and qualifications of each Supreme Court nominee, and typically the committee conducts a close, intensive investigation of each nominee. Since the late 1960s, the Judiciary Committee's consideration of a Supreme Court

nominee almost always has consisted of three distinct stages-(1) a pre-hearing investigative stage, followed by (2) public hearings, and concluding with (3) a committee decision on what recommendation to make to the full Senate. During the pre-hearing investigative stage, the nominee responds to a detailed Judiciary Committee questionnaire, providing biographical, professional, and financial disclosure information to the committee. In addition to the committee's own investigation of the nominee, the FBI also investigates the nominee and provides the committee with confidential reports related to its investigation. During this time, the American Bar Association also evaluates the professional qualifications of the nominee, rating the nominee as well qualified, qualified, or not qualified. Additionally, prior to hearings starting, the nominee pays courtesy calls on individual Senators in their offices, including Senators who do not serve on the Judiciary Committee. Once the Judiciary Committee completes its investigation of the nominee, he or she testifies in hearings before the committee. On average, for Supreme Court nominees who have received hearings from 1975 to the present, the nominee's first hearing occurred 40 days after his or her nomination was formally submitted to the Senate by the President. Questioning of a nominee by Senators has involved, as a matter of course, the nominee's legal qualifications, biographical background, and any earlier actions as public figures. Other questions have focused on social and political issues, the Constitution, particular court rulings, current constitutional controversies, and judicial philosophy. For the most recent nominees to the Court, hearings have lasted for four or five days (although the Senate may decide to hold more hearings if a nomination is perceived as controversial-as was the case with Robert Bork's nomination in 1987, who had 11 days of hearings). Usually within a week upon completion of the hearings, the Judiciary Committee meets in open session to determine what recommendation to report to the full Senate. The committee's usual practice has been to report even those Supreme Court nominations opposed by a committee majority, allowing the full Senate to make the final decision on whether the nomination should be approved. Consequently, the committee may report the nomination favorably, report it unfavorably, or report it without making any recommendation at all. Of the 15 most recent Supreme Court nominations reported by the Judiciary Committee, 13 were reported favorably, 1 was reported unfavorably, and 1 was reported without recommendation.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Speed of Presidential and Senate Actions on Supreme Court Nominations, 1900 - 2010 R. Sam Garrett, 2010-10 Contents: (1) Recent Activity: Activity During 2010, 2009, and 2005-2006: Recent Nominations: Roberts, Miers, Alito; (2) Measuring the Pace of Supreme Court (SC) Appoint.; (3) How SC Vacancies Occur: Death of a Sitting Justice (SJ): Retirement or Resignation of a SJ; Nomination of a SJ to Another Position; Controversial, Withdrawn, and Rejected Nominations; (4) Date of Actual or Prospective Vacancy; Announcement-of-Nominee Date: Use of Medians to Summarize Intervals; The Duration of the Nomination-and-Confirmation Process: Changes Since 1981; Factors Influencing the Speed of the Process: How the Vacancy Occurs; The Senate's Schedule; Committee Involvement and Institutional Customs; Controversial Nominations.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Supreme Court Nominations Betsy Palmer, 2009 The appointment of a Supreme Court Justice is an event of major significance in American politics. Each appointment is important because of the enormous judicial power the Supreme Court exercises as the highest appellate court in the federal judiciary. Appointments are usually infrequent, as a vacancy on the nine member Court may occur only once or twice, or never at all, during a particular President's years in office. Under the Constitution, Justices on the Supreme Court receive lifetime appointments. Such job security in the government has been conferred solely on judges and, by constitutional design, helps insure the Court's independence from the President and Congress. The procedure for appointing a Justice is provided for by the Constitution in only a few words. The Appointments Clause (Article II, Section 2, clause 2) states that the President shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate, shall appoint . . . Judges of the supreme Court. The process of appointing Justices has undergone changes over two centuries, but its most basic feature -- the sharing of power between the President and Senate -- has remained unchanged: To receive

lifetime appointment to the Court, a candidate must first be nominated by the President and then confirmed by the Senate. Although not mentioned in the Constitution, an important role is played midway in the process (after the President selects, but before the Senate considers) by the Senate Judiciary Committee. On rare occasions, Presidents also have made Court appointments without the Senate's consent, when the Senate was in recess. Such recess appointments, however, were temporary, with their terms expiring at the end of the Senate's next session. The last recess appointments to the Court, made in the 1950s, were controversial because they bypassed the Senate and its advice and consent role. The appointment of a Justice might or might not proceed smoothly. From the first appointments in 1789, the Senate has confirmed 122 out of 158 Court nominations. Of the 36 unsuccessful nominations, 11 were rejected in Senate roll-call votes, while nearly all of the rest, in the face of committee or Senate opposition to the nominee or the President, were withdrawn by the President or were postponed, tabled, or never voted on by the Senate. Over more than two centuries, a recurring theme in the Supreme Court appointment process has been the assumed need for excellence in a nominee. However, politics also has played an important role in Supreme Court appointments. The political nature of the appointment process becomes especially apparent when a President submits a nominee with controversial views, there are sharp partisan or ideological differences between the President and the Senate, or the outcome of important constitutional issues before the Court is seen to be at stake.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Supreme Court Nomination Richard L. Worsnop, 1987

icivics supreme court nomination game: Supreme Court Appointments Norman Vieira, Leonard Gross, 1998 Norman Vieira and Leonard Gross provide an in-depth analysis of the political and legal framework surrounding the confirmation process for Supreme Court nominees. President Ronald Reagan's nomination of Judge Robert Bork to the Supreme Court met with a fierce opposition that was apparent in his confirmation hearings, which were different in many ways from those of any previous nominee. This behind-the-scenes view of the politics and personalities involved in the Bork confirmation controversy provides a framework for future debates regarding the confirmation process. To help establish that framework, Vieira and Gross examine the similarities as well as the differences between the Bork confirmation battle and other confirmation proceedings for Supreme Court nominees.

icivics supreme court nomination game: Supreme Court Nomination: CRS Products (LSB10160) ,

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Pursuit of Justices* David Alistair Yalof, 2001-10-15 Yalof takes the reader behind the scenes of what happens before the Senate hearings to show how presidents decide who will sit on the highest court in the land. He draws on the papers of 7 modern presidents and firsthand interviews with key figures.

icivics supreme court nomination game: *Advice and Consent on Supreme Court Nominations* , 1976

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