

## Teacher Notes



# The Supreme Court

## Activity 4 How the Supreme Court Impacts Citizens' Lives

### Activity at a Glance

- ◆ **Subject:** Social Studies
- ◆ **Subject Area:** American Government
- ◆ **Category:** The Judicial Branch
- ◆ **Topic:** The Supreme Court
- ◆ **Grade Level:** 9 - 12
- ◆ **Prerequisites:** Students should be familiar with the three branches of the United States government, the United States Constitution, the Bill of Rights, the basic processes of the Supreme Court, and key points in American History.
- ◆ **Total Teaching Time:** 50 minutes

### Materials

- ◆ TI-83 Plus
- ◆ TI External Keyboard
- ◆ LearningCheck™ Application
- ◆ TI Connectivity cable or TI-Navigator™ System
- ◆ Resource Files: **US Supreme Court Decision.edc**
- ◆ Student Essay Page (Optional)
- ◆ Suggested Rubric for Scoring Essays

### ***Activity Overview***

After reviewing several Supreme Court decisions, each student will write an essay regarding how one Court decision has directly impacted his or her life. The student will recognize the power of the Judicial Branch over the lives of American citizens.

### ***Tip***

The last activity ended with the students searching Web sites for Supreme Court cases that have directly impacted their lives. If necessary, allow the students time to complete their searches and identify and review the details of the case they select. When the students have made their choices, instruct them to print the case summary for use in this activity.

It is your decision as to whether or not to review the cases selected prior to starting this last activity. Another method to use in screening cases is to have each student select 2-3 cases, then meet with the students individually to select an appropriate case for this activity.

## ***Directions***

### ***Before the Activity Begins***

Ensure that each student has his or her TI-83 Plus device with the LearningCheck™ application installed, and that each student has a printed copy of his or her selected case summary. Note: This assignment is easier to complete if each student has a TI External Keyboard to use.

### ***Warm-up Activity***

Review the terminology from this lesson as well as the case summaries used in prior activities. Review how these cases have impacted both individuals and society as a whole.

### ***During the Activity***

Distribute the LearningCheck™ file, **US Supreme Court Decision.edc**, to the students. Allow students time to review their selected cases. Inform them that they will be writing an essay in which they explain how this one case has directly impacted their lives. Points to consider and address in this effort are:

- ◆ Provide a brief summary of the case.
- ◆ Describe the law or Amendment pertinent to the case.
- ◆ Include the Court's decision.
- ◆ Discuss how this Court decision has directly impacted the writer's life as well as society. This discussion should contain specific examples.

During the activity, circulate among the students to answer questions, if needed. When they are finished, students should submit their essay files for evaluation.

### ***After the Activity***

If time permits after the essays are turned in, begin a class discussion by sharing with the class how one specific Supreme Court case has impacted your life. Encourage the students to share their cases, being sure to steer the discussion back to the point of how powerful the Judicial Branch is and how the other two branches of government balance it.



***Suggested Rubric for Scoring Essays***

- 5 – Exceeds Standard:
- ◆ Shows understanding of content
  - ◆ Response is thorough and complete
  - ◆ Response is accurate
  - ◆ Provides ample evidence to support thesis
- 4 – Meets Standard:
- ◆ Demonstrates general understanding of content
  - ◆ Response is substantial
  - ◆ Response is generally accurate
  - ◆ Provides some evidence toward claim
- 3 – Approaches Standard:
- ◆ Demonstrates partial understanding of content
  - ◆ Response not thorough but remains on topic
  - ◆ Some minor errors
  - ◆ Provides some evidence toward claim
- 2 – Partially meets Standard:
- ◆ Demonstrates limited understanding of content
  - ◆ Incomplete response that may veer off topic
  - ◆ Response demonstrates a misunderstanding
  - ◆ Response has errors
  - ◆ Lacks meaningful evidence to support claim
- 1 – Insufficient