



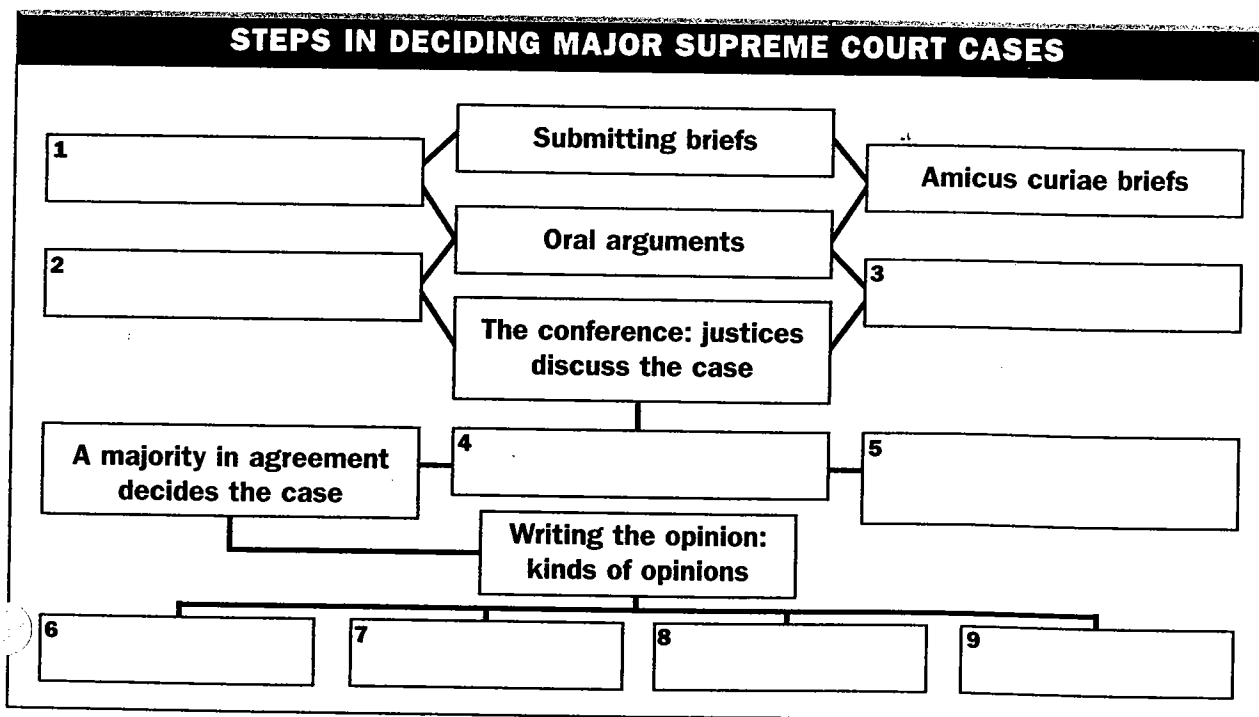
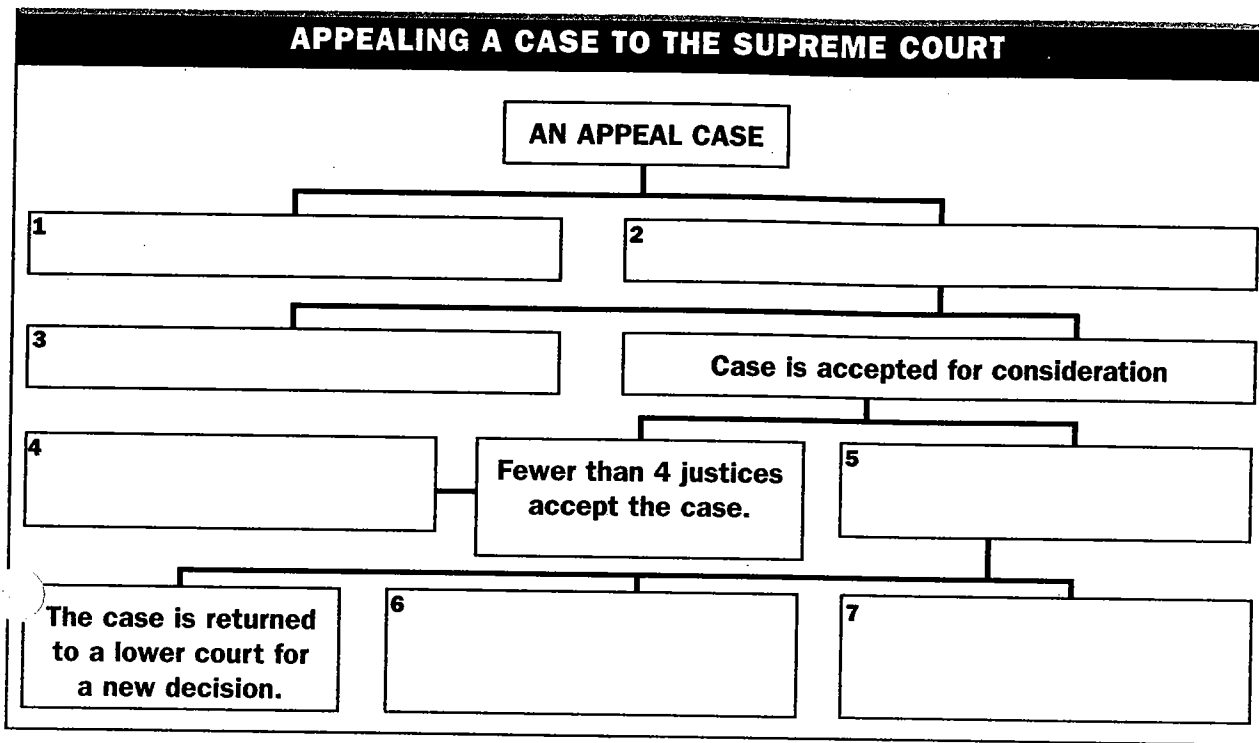


# Guided Reading Activity 12-1



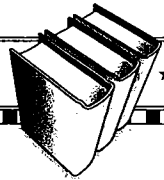
## The Supreme Court at Work

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to complete these flow charts.



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# Guided Reading Activity 12-2



## Shaping Public Policy

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to complete this chart. List the Court's three "tools" in each top section, and give an example of how each is used in the sections below.

THE SUPREME COURT'S TOOLS FOR SHAPING POLICY		
Example	Example	Example

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to list the limits on the power of the Supreme Court.

- Types of issues the Court can accept: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Types of cases the Court can accept: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- How the Court's agenda is limited: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_
- Why the Court cannot enforce its decisions: \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_  
 \_\_\_\_\_

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_ Class \_\_\_\_\_

## Guided Reading Activity 12-3



### Influencing Court Decisions

**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to describe how each of the following factors has influenced the Supreme Court. For each, give an example, cite a case, or give an explanation.

The Law: \_\_\_\_\_

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The Justices: \_\_\_\_\_

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Society: \_\_\_\_\_

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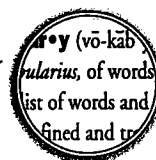
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**★DIRECTIONS** Use the information in your textbook to complete this table by explaining how the president and members of Congress influence the Supreme Court.

PRESIDENTIAL AND CONGRESSIONAL INFLUENCES ON THE SUPREME COURT	
Presidential Influences	Congressional Influences
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> <li>•</li> </ul>

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# Vocabulary Activity 12



## Supreme Court Decision Making

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**DIRECTIONS** → Select the term that matches each definition below. Write the correct term in the space provided.

dissenting opinion	swing vote	impound	per curiam opinion
majority opinion	precedent	writ of certiorari	bloc
amicus curiae	brief	advisory opinion	stare decisis

1. An order from the Court to a lower court to send up the records on a case for review  
\_\_\_\_\_
2. A short unsigned statement of the Court's decision in a case \_\_\_\_\_
3. A written statement setting forth the legal arguments, relevant facts, and previous Court decision supporting one side of a case \_\_\_\_\_
4. A friend of the court \_\_\_\_\_
5. An explanation of a Court decision expressing the views of most of the justices on a case  
\_\_\_\_\_
6. An explanation of a Court decision expressing the views of justices on the losing side of a case \_\_\_\_\_
7. A power, exercised by the president, to refuse to spend money Congress has appropriated  
\_\_\_\_\_
8. A Latin term that means "let the decision (of the Court) stand" \_\_\_\_\_
9. A model for courts on which to base other decisions in similar cases \_\_\_\_\_
10. A ruling on a law or action that has not been challenged \_\_\_\_\_
11. A coalition of justices that consistently vote a certain position \_\_\_\_\_
12. The deciding ballot cast on a specific issue \_\_\_\_\_

★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★

**DIRECTIONS** → Use each of the following terms correctly in complete sentences. Write the sentences on a separate sheet of paper.

judicial review      lobbying

# Reteaching Activity



## Supreme Court Decision Making

### DIRECTIONS

Complete the diagram related to the decision-making powers of the United States Supreme Court. Write the correct letters on the line in each box.

Cases come to the Supreme Court mainly in these two ways:

The Court will hear a case if it meets this criteria.

The steps for deciding a major case follow this order:

1. \_\_\_\_\_ 2. \_\_\_\_\_ 3. \_\_\_\_\_ 4. \_\_\_\_\_ 5. \_\_\_\_\_

Decisions of the Court are influenced by these factors.

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <b>A.</b> the quality of the relationship of the justices   | <b>K.</b> logical interpretation of the law  |
| <b>B.</b> Lawyers present oral arguments before the Court.  | <b>L.</b> The nine justices meet to debate each case, express views and conclusions, and vote on a decision. |
| <b>C.</b> presidential appointments to the Court  | <b>M.</b> actions of Congress  |
| <b>D.</b> A majority opinion may be debated and rewritten several times before the final decision is announced. | <b>N.</b> changes in the attitudes and practices of society  |
| <b>E.</b> A substantial federal question is in dispute.   | <b>O.</b> the skillful leadership of the chief justice   |
| <b>F.</b> Lawyers submit written briefs.  | <b>P.</b> by writ of certiorari  |
| <b>G.</b> public acceptance and support   | <b>Q.</b> Political questions are not involved.  |
| <b>H.</b> The final decision will make a difference.  | <b>R.</b> The plaintiff has suffered real harm.  |
| <b>I.</b> on appeal   | <b>S.</b> personal views and opinions of the justices  |
| <b>J.</b> A written opinion is issued that announces the Court's ruling and explains its reasoning.             |  |

## CHAPTER SUMMARY *Activity* ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★ ★



### Supreme Court Decision Making

**★ DIRECTIONS** In the space provided, write the word or phrase that best completes each of the following sentences.

1. A \_\_\_\_\_ of certiorari orders the records on a case be sent up for review.
2. The Supreme Court must grant certiorari in cases involving the \_\_\_\_\_ of a law.
3. The Supreme Court decides many cases by a per curiam opinion—a \_\_\_\_\_ ,  
\_\_\_\_\_ ruling.
4. A \_\_\_\_\_ sets forth the legal arguments, relevant facts, and precedents.
5. Individuals, interest groups, and government agencies may submit amicus curiae, or  
“\_\_\_\_\_ of the court” briefs.
6. A \_\_\_\_\_ opinion agrees with the conclusion reached but for reasons other than  
those in the majority opinion.
7. One or more justices may write a \_\_\_\_\_ opinion, disagreeing with the majority.
8. Under the principle of stare decisis, earlier Court rulings serve as \_\_\_\_\_ .
9. The Supreme Court accepts only cases that involve a substantial \_\_\_\_\_ question.
10. The Supreme Court will hear only cases in which an individual or group has suffered real  
\_\_\_\_\_ .

**Organizing Information** Write an explanation of how each factor helps shape Supreme Court decisions.

Factor	How It Influences Supreme Court Decisions
Basing Decisions on the Law	
Views of the Justices	
Relations Among the Justices	
Social Forces and Public Attitudes	
The President and the Congress	

**Critical Thinking** Answer the following question on a separate sheet of paper.

11. How can a president use the power of appointment to influence the direction of Supreme Court decisions?