

JUDICIAL BRANCH TRUE/FALSE

Procedure

Tell students you are going to read a series of true/false questions. Tell them that when you have finished reading each statement (sometimes you may need to repeat the statement), you will ask them to tell you whether the statement is true or false. There are several ways you can have students respond:

- Ask them to give you a “thumbs up” if the answer is true and a “thumbs down” if it’s false.
- Have students call out “true” or “false” in a chorus.
- Make a quick set of T/F cards using index cards. On each card, write a large T on one side and F on the other. Give each student a card and ask them to answer by showing you the T side or the F side.

Either way, ask students to wait until you have finished reading the statement to respond.

Example

Teacher: There are two levels of courts. True or false?

Class: (showing thumbs down)

Teacher: Great! Everyone is showing me that’s wrong. How many are there?
(This is a good opportunity to reinforce the material with students)

1. The Supreme Court of the United States was created by Congress. (F)
2. There is only one judge in a trial court. (T)
3. If Congress passes an unconstitutional law, the Supreme Court can strike it down. (T)
4. When you first begin a trial, you will be in an appellate court. (F)
5. A jury decides the case in a bench trial. (F)
6. The Supreme Court must take every case that gets appealed to it. (F)
7. If you break a state law, your case will probably be in a state court system. (T)
8. When the Supreme Court looks at whether something is constitutional, the court is exercising judicial review. (T)
9. It would be easy to prove a case without evidence. (F)
10. If the Court of Appeals remands a case, that means the court says the verdict was right. (F)
11. The federal court system was created by Congress. (T)
12. State court systems were created by the Constitution of the United States. (F)
13. When you ask a higher court to review your case, you are making an appeal. (T)
14. When the Court of Appeals affirms a case, it sends the case back to the trial court. (F)
15. The Supreme Court gets the last word about what the Constitution really says. (T)

JUDICIAL A/B

Procedure

Tell students you are going to read a series of statements that are not complete. Tell them that when you have finished reading each statement (sometimes you may need to repeat the statement), you will give them two possible answers—an “A” answer and a “B” answer. There are several ways you can have students respond:

- Ask them to give you a “thumbs up” if the answer is A and a “thumbs down” if the answer is B.
- Have students call out “A” or “B” in a chorus.
- Make a quick set of A/B cards using index cards. On each card, write a large A on one side and B on the other. Give each student a card and ask them to answer by showing you the A side or the B side.

In addition to reading the answer options, you can also make an overhead with an A column and a B column so the students can see the answers as you go along. Either way, ask students to wait until you have finished reading the statement to answer.

Example

Teacher: There are 9 justices on the _____. Is it A: Court of Appeals, or B: Supreme Court?

Class: (saying or showing B)

Teacher: Great! Everyone is saying it’s the Supreme Court. How many judges usually hear a case at the Court of Appeals? (This is a good opportunity to verbally reinforce the material with students)

QUESTION	A	B
When someone is accused of a crime, the type of case is	civil	criminal✓
If you appeal a case, you are going to	appellate court✓	trial court
The court that gets to decide what is constitutional and what isn’t is the	Supreme Court✓	Court of Appeals
If the appellate court thinks a decision was wrong, it will	affirm the decision	reverse the decision✓
If a group of people gives the verdict after a trial, that trial was a	jury trial✓	bench trial
A word that means “relating to the rights of citizens”	criminal	civil✓
The Supreme Court has	three justices	nine justices✓
If an appellate court sends a case back to the trial court, it has	affirmed the case	remanded the case✓
If you go to the Court of Appeals, you will see	three judges✓	one judge
If the Supreme Court strikes down a law, that law was	unconstitutional✓	constitutional
The decision in a case is called the	evidence	verdict✓
If you break a law of the United States, your case will probably be in a	federal court✓	state court
At trial, lawyers try to prove their case using	an appeal	evidence✓
If the Court of Appeals reverses a decision, then	the case is all over	there is still the Supreme Court✓
State courts were created by	the US Constitution	state constitutions✓