

A Supreme Court Hearing — Supreme Court Clerks

The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the land and the court of last resort. A decision by the Supreme Court is the law of the land. The Court, composed of a panel of justices, is asked to rule on a lower court's decision. There is no trial; no witnesses are called, and the basic facts in a case are not disputed.

The arguments to be presented can be based on the Constitution, the applicable law, and previous court precedents. The arguments do not need to be rooted in legal technicalities. In this activity you will be assisting the Justices.

Supreme Court Clerks

Your job is to:

1. Review the case and work with the Justices to develop questions.
2. Listen carefully to the arguments, in case your Justice ask for input.
3. Time the arguments and rebuttals.
4. Select one clerk to announce the Justices.
5. Give input to the Justices before they go into Conference:
 - What do you think is the most compelling argument?
 - How do you think the Justices should vote?
 - What do you think you may need to clarify for the Justices?