

EXTEND THE RESOURCES

Below is a list of ideas and ways you might use the resources provided on this Classroom Law Project resource page to extend learning and civic engagement for your students:

Start with Choice & Inquiry:

The sections on this Current Event Resource Page connect to the nomination of a justice to replace retiring Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer, the politicization of the selection of Supreme Court justices, and proposals to reform the Supreme Court to diminish the court's politicization. There should be a subtopic within this Current Event that students may find interesting. For example, the goal (identified in advance) of selecting a Black/African-American woman, the process of nominating and confirming a Supreme Court justice, the recent history of politicization of Supreme Court nominees, arguments about whether the Supreme Court is in need of fundamental reform, and if so, how to go about reforming the Supreme Court to achieve the desired goals. Give students the opportunity to choose a topic or connection of interest and start with that.

Extensions with the Articles/Editorials:

- News Analysis worksheets (handout on current event page)
- Further News Research (Research Tips handout on current event page)
- Annotated summaries of articles
- Socratic discussions with shared article texts

Extensions:

- Review the names of several justices President Biden is considering to nominate to replace Justice Breyer on the Supreme Court. Evaluate the beliefs, experiences, and current position of each potential nominee and decide who you would like to see nominated. Write a brief statement in support of your favored justice. (If you don't care for any of the potential nominees, identify a selection of your own and explain, with at least three pieces of evidence, why this person's qualifications make them best suited to be nominated to serve on the Supreme Court.) (Students can also submit their statements directly to the White House through the following portal: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.)
- Create a debate in which students take a stand on either side of the following issue: "In order to address the disparity of gender and racial representation on the nation's highest court (exemplified by the Gavel Gap), Presidents should make an effort to strive toward a racial and gender balance on the court that reflects the demographics of the country as a whole."
- Divide the class into research teams and assign each team to delve more deeply into some of the most controversial Supreme Court nominees in history, including: Louis Brandeis (1916), Hugo Black (1937), Clement Haynsworth/G. Harrold Carswell (1969), Robert Bork (1987), Clarence Thomas (1991), Harriet Miers (2005), Merrick Garland (2016), Brett Kavanaugh (2017). Ask each team to develop a presentation that focuses on (a) the nominee's background/biography prior to nomination; (b)