

Guided Reading

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The Judicial Branch

Lesson 4 *Supreme Court Procedures and Decisions*

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

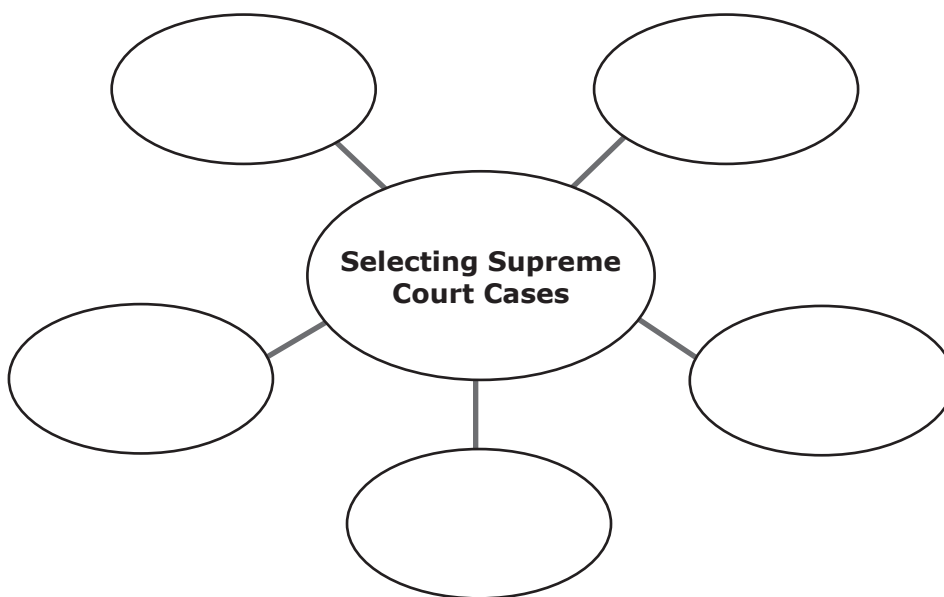
- *How can government ensure citizens are treated fairly?*

Court Procedures

1. **Explaining** As you read the text, use the chart below to define a writ of certiorari and explain why it is made.

Writ of Certiorari	
Definition	Reasons for requesting it
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2. **Identifying** The Supreme Court considers several factors before putting a case on its docket. Use the web diagram to name some of those factors.



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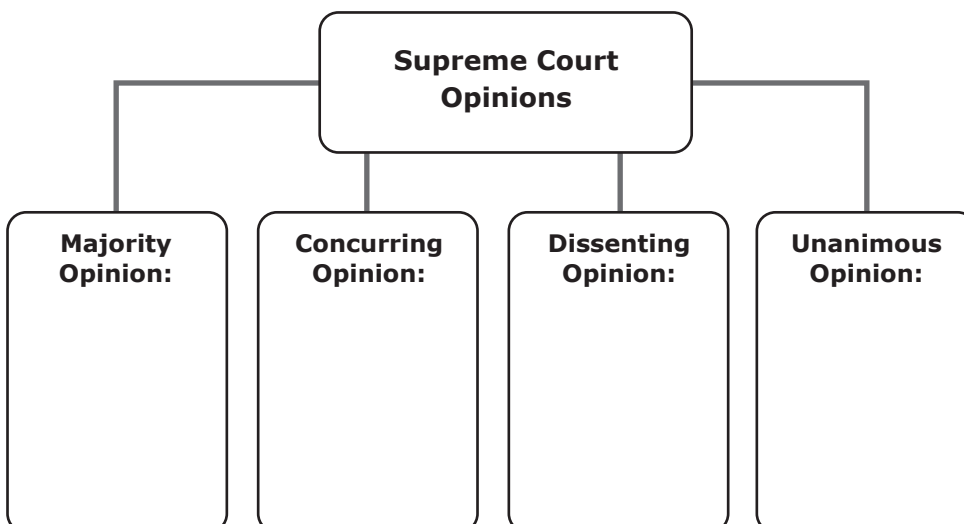
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- 3. Analyzing** The Supreme Court hears arguments for about 75 to 80 cases in each session, although it receives writs of certiorari for some 10,000 cases. Why do you think the Court does not hear more cases?

How the Court's Rulings Are Made

- 4. Summarizing** Explain how written and oral arguments help Supreme Court justices make rulings when they meet in conference.

- 5. Describing** As you read the text, use the chart below to describe the types of opinions issued by Supreme Court justices.



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6. **Analyzing** What is the role of stare decisis in guiding justices' decisions?

7. **Contrasting** What are some differing views on the role of the courts in our society?
