



Lesson Plan: Impartiality; An Honest Court

Assessment: Students will be evaluated through informal checks for understanding, teacher observation, self-reflections, and performing an authentic task (GRASP) evaluated by a rubric. (See rubric and GRASP)

GRASPS:

	GRASP: Your Mission
GOAL	Through the examination of secondary materials, you will be able to summarize the importance of maintaining an independent judiciary that is free from public opinion and political pressures.
Role	You are a newspaper reporter.
Audience	Group of peers, teacher, readers of school newspaper.
Situation	You will read, evaluate, and answer questions about a past California court decision. You will then provide a summarization of the decision and resulting political fallout to the class and answer any questions they may have. You will also create an editorial showing the differences between Federal and State justices and how judicial impartiality can be preserved.
Performance	Your performance will be evaluated using the scoring rubric/guide listed below for your editorial.



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Curricula for K-12 Civics Education

Quality Criteria:

Level of Understanding demonstrated	4- Advanced	3- Proficient	2- Basic	1- Below Basic
Student court case	Offers in-depth analysis and interpretation of the assigned case. Distinguishes between fact and opinion	Offers accurate analysis of the court case.	Demonstrates only a minimal understanding of the court case	Gives one or two facts from the court case, but does not include any analysis or interpretation of the case
Student Editorial	Editorial analyzes the federal and state judicial systems using specific examples to illustrate the differences between the two and includes only the information relevant to the comparing the two systems Student provides persuasive argument as to which system is better in protecting judicial impartiality and provides practical suggestions for improving the other judicial system	The analysis of the federal and state judicial systems uses only general information. The editorial includes only information relevant to the comparing of the two systems. Student provides persuasive argument as to which system is better in protecting judicial impartiality but does not provide practical suggestions.	The analysis of the federal and state judicial systems is incomplete, only providing information from one judicial system. May include information that is not relevant to the topic. Student provides opinions on how to fix the system in an informational manner only	The editorial does not analyze but instead gives personal opinion. There is no supporting information or the information is incomplete or off topic. Student has not provided information relating to the topic.