Name _____

U.S. Supreme Court and Federal Courts: Nominating and Selecting Judges

1) _______with advice from White House Counsel, Attorney General, and lawyers from the Department of Justice law office who compile a list of potential nominees. <u>Considerations</u>: Ideological compatibility, acceptability in Senate, political leaning of outgoing Justice, qualifications (friend or acquaintance?)

2) ______. While the public is frequently aware of these meetings, the contents of the meetings are usually not disclosed. Occasionally, the name of a nominee is unofficially leaked to the media.

3) ______. The Senate Judiciary Committee interviews the nominee and gives the nominee an extensive questionnaire to fill out. Committee staff and the FBI complete a background check on the nominee.

4) In some cases, interest groups run advertisements in favor of or against a nominee, (usually just at the Supreme Court level). Public relations campaigns are aimed at convincing general public and Senators to support or oppose the nominee.

5) _______ holds a televised hearing in which members question the nominee about their background and qualifications. Confirmation hearings usually examine a nominee's past decisions and public statements. Confirmation hearings typically last several days.

6) Senate Judiciary Committee, led by the chairperson, holds a vote on whether or not to recommend the nominee for confirmation.

7) ______. A simple majority is required. However, filibusters by minority party can prevent a vote on a nomination from coming to floor. With a closely divided Senate, this has become a common tactic and powerful tool used by minority party to block a nomination.

8) If the full Senate majority votes to confirm, nominee is approved. Nominee takes oath and becomes the next Justice. <u>Failure to become a Justice</u>: Nominee declines nomination, president withdraws- great opposition, Senate rejects nominee. (<u>Robert Bork</u> – nominee of President Reagan & <u>Harriet Miers</u> – nominee of George W. Bush)

Senatorial Courtesy	The "Litmus Test"

The Judicial Oath of Office:

"I, _____, do solemnly swear that I will administer justice without respect to persons, and do equal right to the poor and to the rich, and that I will faithfully and impartially discharge and perform all the duties incumbent upon me as associate justice of the Supreme Court of the United States under the Constitution and laws of the United States. So help me God."

➡ Free-Response Question: 2000 AP Exam:

The Supreme Court is commonly thought to be above politics yet one can argue that the appointment of Supreme Court Justices is political.

Identify three characteristics of Supreme Court nominees and discuss how each characteristic has been politically relevant during the nomination process.

Identify two methods that have been used by interest groups to influence the appointment process. Explain how each of these methods has been used to influence that process.