

Judicial Branch: The design of the judicial branch protects the court's independence as a branch of government, and the emergence and use of judicial review remains a powerful judicial practice.

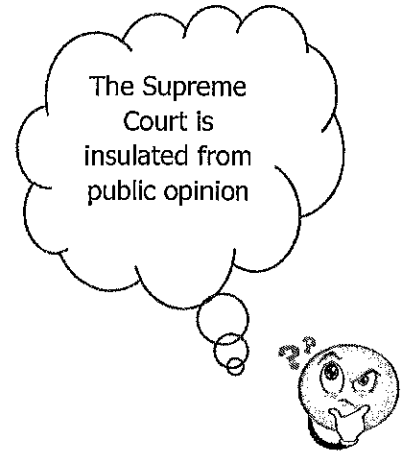
Explain the principle of judicial review and how it checks the power of other institutions and state governments.

The foundation for powers of the judicial branch and how its independence checks the power of other institutions and state governments are set forth in:

Article III of the Constitution

Federalist No. 78

Marbury v. Madison (1803)



Explain how the exercise of judicial review in conjunction with life tenure can lead to controversy about the legitimacy of the Supreme Court's power.

Precedents and stare decisis play an important role in judicial decision making.

Define:

Stare Decisis

Precedent

<p>Discuss how ideological changes in the composition of the Supreme Court due to presidential appointments have led to the Court's establishing new or rejecting existing precedents.</p>	
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Controversial or unpopular court decisions can lead to challenges of the court's legitimacy and power which Congress and the president. Discuss how the President and Congress can change unpopular decisions...

future appointments

legislation changing the Court's jurisdiction refusing to implement decisions

Constitutional Amendment

<p>Political discussion about the Supreme Court's power is illustrated by the ongoing debate over judicial activism versus judicial restraint.</p>	<p>Define and provide an example:</p> <p>Judicial Activism</p>	<p>Define and provide an example:</p> <p>Judicial Restraint</p>
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<p>Explain how other branches in the government can limit the Supreme Court's power.</p>	
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What are the functions of *amicus curiae* briefs?

What is the difference between:

majority opinion

dissenting opinion

concurring opinion

COURT	NUMBER OF COURTS	NUMBER OF JUDGES	JURISDICTION	POLICY IMPLICATIONS
District Court				
Courts of Appeal				
Supreme Court				