# Table of Contents

## Part One: Social Studies Curriculum

### Chapter I: Social Studies Essay Questions and Prewriting Activities

1. Western Political Thought and American Government ___________ 1  
2. The Declaration of Independence __________________________ 6  
3. American Democracy: Founding Ideas _________________________ 10  
4. The Role of Religion in American Education ____________________ 15  
5. The U.S. Constitution ______________________________________ 20  
6. The Supreme Court and Chief Justice Marshall ________________ 25  
7. Free Market or Planned Economy? _____________________________ 30  
8. Globalization and Illegal Immigration __________________________ 35  
9. News Media and American Political Life ________________________ 38  
10. Totalitarianism and the United States _________________________ 41  
11. The American Electoral Process ______________________________ 47  

## Part Two: Social Studies Literacy Curriculum

### Chapter II: Skills for the One-Paragraph Essay _________________ 51  
1. Fact or Opinion? ___________________________________________ 51  
2. Judgment __________________________________________________ 53  
3. Supporting Evidence _________________________________________ 54  
4. Primary or Secondary Source Analysis _________________________ 55  
5. Using Quotes ______________________________________________ 56  
6. Paraphrasing _______________________________________________ 57  
7. Thesis Statement ____________________________________________ 58  
8. Conclusion __________________________________________________ 59  
9. Outline for a One-Paragraph Essay ____________________________ 60  
   Outline Forms for a One-Paragraph Essay ________________________ 61  
10. Rough Draft of a One-Paragraph Essay __________________________ 62  
    Rough Draft Forms for a One-Paragraph Essay _____________________ 63  


The Supreme Court and Chief Justice Marshall

The judicial branch and Supreme Court decisions have often been an area of great debate in the United States. Of the three branches in the Constitution, the judiciary has the least amount of power directly granted. However, in debates and conflicts ranging from federalism to slavery to abortion, decisions from the Supreme Court have become the law of the land. What has been termed the “passive branch” has, at times, taken the lead in determining governmental policy.

In your paper, trace the developing role of the U.S. Supreme Court, from the founding to present day. Did the Founding Founders provide a clear role for the Court in the U.S. Constitution? If so, what was that role? Trace the changing role of the Supreme Court from *Marbury v. Madison* to *McCulloch v. Maryland*. Did Chief Justice John Marshall alter or carry out the intentions of the founding fathers during his tenure as chief justice? Was Marshall an American Founding Father?

In your essay, use the U.S. Constitution, founding fathers, and court cases to answer the questions. You should be familiar with the following terms:

James Madison John Jay Alexander Hamilton

*Marbury v. Madison* *McCulloch v. Maryland* John Marshall

judicial activism judicial restraint

This essay has six assignments:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Assignment</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
<th>Due Date</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1. Prewriting Activities</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>4. Rough Draft</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2. Thesis Statement</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>5. Final</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>3. Outline</td>
<td>______</td>
<td>6. Works Cited</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Prewriting Activities for Essay #6
A. Taking Notes

Follow the structure below to take notes:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>James Madison</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did this person write about the nature of the judiciary?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>John Jay</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did this person write about the nature of the judiciary?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Alexander Hamilton</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>What?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Who?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>When?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Where?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Why?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>What did this person write about the nature of the judiciary?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Any other information?</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Source:</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
B. American Founding Fathers and the Court

The American Founding Fathers fought for independence and created the American Republic. Often, Americans today look to these men for guidance to interpret the meaning of the U.S. Constitution. In this activity, your job is to learn what the Founding Fathers thought of the role of the court. Did the Founders provide a clear role for the Court in the U.S. Constitution? Did the founders agree on the role of the Court? What did the founding fathers think the role of the Court should be?

1. Who are considered the American Founding Fathers?

2. When did the American Founding Fathers live?

3. Is Chief Justice John Marshall considered to be an American Founding Father?

4. What does the U.S. Constitution say about the Court System? What power did the writers of the Constitution give to the Court System?

5. What does Alexander Hamilton in “Federalist Paper No. 78” say about the U.S. Court system?

6. What is the debate in contemporary American politics over strict constructionism and living constitution?
C. Two Major Court Decisions

1. Marbury v. Madison
   a. When was this court case? ________________________________
   b. What were the details of this case? ________________________________
   
   c. What power did the Supreme Court create in this case? _________________
   
   d. What did President Jefferson think about this decision? _________________
   
   e. Was the Supreme Court’s decision correct? Was it following the intent of the Founding Fathers? Why do you think this? _________________

2. McCulloch v. Maryland
   a. When was this court case? ________________________________
   b. What were the details of this case? ________________________________
   
   c. What were two main decisions in McCulloch v. Maryland? ________________
   
   d. Did the U.S. Constitution explicitly create the authority for the Supreme Court to make these two decisions? ________________
   
   e. Was the Supreme Court’s decision correct? Was it following the intent of the Founding Fathers? Why do you think this? ________________
D. Class Discussion

When you share ideas with other students, your ideas may be reinforced, rejected, or slightly changed. Listening to your classmates’ ideas will help you form your own judgment.

Each student must interview at least three classmates who do not sit next to one another. The answers to the following questions must be written down on a piece of paper.

1. What is your name?
2. Did the Founding Fathers provide a clear role for the Court in the U.S. Constitution? If so, then what was that role?
3. Did Chief Justice John Marshall alter or carry out the intentions of the founding fathers during his tenure as chief justice?
4. Which facts do you have that support what you think?

Reflection

After you have written down all your classmates’ responses, think about them and ask yourself the following questions. Write down your answers under your classmates’ responses.

1. What do I think of my classmates’ answers?
2. Which are the best three answers to questions #2 and #3 above?
3. Have I changed the way I think?
4. How have I changed the way I think?

You should now have a chance to present your ideas in a class discussion. If somebody says something with which you disagree, speak up! In your discussion, you may find out they are actually right and you are wrong. All possible viewpoints should be stated and defended out loud. Test your ideas in class.
Multi-Page Essay Grading Rubric

Grading Scale
4 Exceeds Standards
3 Meets Standards
2 Approaching Standards
1 Below Standards
0 Nonexistent

I. Organization/Structure of the Essay
   A. Thesis: Does the thesis take a firm position on the essay topic? ____
   B. Topic Sentences: Do topic sentences strongly support the thesis? ____
   C. Conclusion: Does the conclusion persuasively affirm the thesis? ____
                   Score: ______

II. Evidence: Part I: Accuracy and Adequacy of Evidence
   A. Accuracy: Is all evidence accurate (true)? ____
   B. Adequacy: Is enough evidence used? ____
                   Score: ______

III. Evidence: Part II: Validity and Persuasiveness of Evidence
    A. Persuasiveness: Do explanations of evidence support main ideas? ____
    Score: ______

IV. Language Mechanics
    A. Punctuation: Does the essay use correct punctuation? ____
    B. Grammar: Does the essay use correct grammar (sentence structure)? ____
    C. Spelling: Is spelling correct? ____
                   Score: ______

V. Writing Process
   A. Prewriting Activities: Are all prewriting activities complete? ____
   B. Effort: Is great effort shown in these activities? ____
                   Score: ______

   Total Score: ______ X 5 = Grade: ______