

**US Gov't
Crash Course Extra Credit
Structure of the Court System**

I verify that my student watched this episode of *Crash Course* and did the worksheet on their own.

Parents Signature: _____

1. What kind of "jurisdiction" do trial courts have?
2. The vast majority of *cases* start out in state courts, but where are most disputes, both civil and criminal, actually decided?
3. In the federal court system, the trial courts are called U.S. _____ courts. Where do almost all criminal cases start?
4. There are 12 circuit courts distributed regionally across the United States. What exactly are these courts? Which judicial circuit is considered to be very liberal?
5. At the federal level, trials in the district courts are before _____ judge(s) and appeals are heard by _____ judge(s).
6. There are four instances where federal courts have original jurisdiction, meaning they must be the place where the case starts. List at least two of these instances.
7. Most of the time, the Supreme Court has what kind of jurisdiction?
8. The Supreme Court has original jurisdiction in certain kinds of cases, meaning that the case will START in the highest court in the land and no other court will ever hear it. Cite at least one kind of case that must start in the Supreme Court.
9. In order for the Supreme Court to hear a case on appeal, the case must somehow raise what kind of question?
10. The Supreme Court is asked to review a lot of cases. About what percentage of them are heard by the court and result in decisions?
11. If a court refuses to hear your case because you do not have "standing," what does that mean? What does it mean for a case to be moot?

12. What is the “political question doctrine?”
13. What circumstance virtually guarantees that the Supreme Court will take a case referred to it?
14. Dream up an example of a civil case and another example of a criminal case. What is the essential difference between the two?
15. Why is the Supreme Court not required to take every case referred to it for review?
16. Invent a situation where someone who does not have “standing” attempts to start a civil case (lawsuit). Defend your position that the person lacks standing.
17. Invent a situation where a case becomes moot. Try to think of ways a case could become moot BESIDES the one mentioned in the video. How many ways can you think of?