Choosing a Supreme Court Nominee

Brainstorm – What qualities should a Supreme Court justice have?

Look at your list of qualities above, circle those you believe are required by the Constitution.

ReadArticleIIIoftheConstitution.Whataretheconstitutionalrequirementsfor Supreme Court Justice?

Consideringyouranswerstotheabovequestions,whatotherfactorsdoyouthinkgo into selecting a nominee?

Do you think it is more important to possess the characteristics in #2 or to have an ideology similar to the administration in office at the time of the nomination?

Articles II & III of the Constitution of the United States of America

*excerpts*

**Article II**

Section 2: “[The President] ...shall nominate, and by and with the Advice and Consent of the Senate shall appoint Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, Judges of the supreme Court ....”

**Article III**

Section 1: “The Judicial Power of the United States, shall be vested in one supreme Court, and in such inferior Courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish. The judges, both of the supreme and inferior Courts, shall hold their Offices during good Behaviour....”

Section 2: The judicial Power shall extend to all Cases ... arising under this Constitution, the Laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their Authority; to all Cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls; to all cases of admiralty and maritime Jurisdiction; to Controversies between two or more States; between a State and Citizen of another State; between Citizens of different States, between Citizens of the same State claiming Lands under Grants of different States, and between a State, or the Citizens thereof, and foreign States, Citizens or Subjects.

In all Cases affecting Ambassadors, other public Ministers and Consuls, and those in which a State shall be Party, the supreme Court shall have original Jurisdiction. In all other Cases before mentioned, the supreme Court shall have appellate Jurisdiction, both as to Law and Fact, with such Exceptions, and under such Regulations as the Congress shall make.

**Characteristics of**

**Current Supreme Court Justices**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| Name | Gender | Age  | Religion | Ethnicity | Previous Experience |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |

[www.supremecourt.gov](http://www.supremecourt.gov)

[www.uscourts.gov](http://www.uscourts.gov)