



LAW ★ DAY 2021
ADVANCING THE
RULE OF LAW NOW

Video Activity – Judicial Independence

1. Introduction: Having three separate branches of government is important to maintain the Rule of Law in our country, because the system of checks and balances keeps all three branches accountable to the law and prevents any one branch or person from functioning outside of or above the law. The courts also ensure that disagreements are settled fairly and that everyone is treated equally before the law.

2. Show this 5-minute video from the U.S. Courts. I suggest using subtitles while playing.

Video: <https://youtu.be/AIOIm4-wnE>

3. Students can follow along using the 1-page **Student Video Guide**.

4. Summarize what was reviewed in the video. This resource may be helpful to you:

<https://judiciallearningcenter.org/judicial-independence/>

5. Assign for homework/follow up – [What's Wrong With This Court?](#)

STUDENT VIDEO GUIDE: Judicial Independence

U.S. Courts Video: <https://youtu.be/AIOllm4-wnE>

Topic	Your notes on the topic, from the video:
Why is a fair and impartial judiciary important?	
What is judicial independence?	
Do judges have unlimited power?	
Should judges be accountable to public opinion?	
Can judges make whatever decisions they wish?	
How does the judicial system correct errors?	

Reflection questions- answer in your own words

1. What do you think would happen to the concept of “justice of all” if the judiciary was not impartial, but biased and unfair?
2. What sorts of laws might congress pass if judicial independence was eliminated?
3. Why is the concept of “limited government” important in the judiciary?
4. If judges were directly accountable to public opinion, how different do you think cases like *Brown v. Board of Education* would have been ruled?
5. How does the appeals process strengthen the concept of an impartial judiciary?