

## **A Supreme Court Hearing — Journalist**

The Supreme Court of the United States is the highest court in the land and the court of last resort. A decision by the Supreme Court is the law of the land. The Court, composed of a panel of justices, is asked to rule on a lower court's decision. There is no trial; no witnesses are called, and the basic facts in a case are not disputed.

The arguments to be presented can be based on the Constitution, the applicable law, and previous court precedent. The arguments do not need to be rooted in legal technicalities. For this activity you will be preparing and writing news reports.

### **Journalist**

Your job is to:

1. Listen to the preparation of the petitioners and respondents. Take notes on the most compelling statements or arguments. (Do not disturb their discussion as you move between the groups; you are just observing.)
2. Write the lead paragraph for the daily news in your hometown.  
The first sentence could be: Today the U.S. Supreme Court will hear oral arguments in the case of...
3. Post this paragraph on the wall. (Paper and markers are provided.)
4. Attend the hearing (moot court) and take notes. After the hearing you may interview one of the attorneys.
5. Write the lead paragraph for the daily news in your hometown.  
The first sentence could be: Today the U.S. Supreme Court decided in the case of...
6. Post this paragraph on the wall.