

Name _____

Judicial Superheroes: Unraveling the Role of the Judicial Branch

Open-Ended Response Answer Key

1. The judicial branch is essential for checks and balances because it has the power to interpret and apply the law and the Constitution, ensuring that they are upheld. For example, it can declare laws passed by Congress as unconstitutional, check executive orders for compliance with the law, and protect individual rights through its decisions.
2. Responses will vary, but examples of landmark Supreme Court cases include Brown v. Board of Education, which ended racial segregation in schools, and Roe v. Wade, which established a woman's right to choose to have an abortion.
3. Responses will vary, but students may discuss the importance of impartiality, adherence to legal precedent, consideration of the Constitution's original intent, and the impact of decisions on society.
4. The judicial branch contributes to fairness and justice by interpreting and applying the law to protect individual rights, ensure equal treatment under the law, and resolve disputes. For example, it has played a vital role in civil rights cases, ensuring equal opportunities and protections for all citizens.

