

SAMPLE ANSWERS: Comparing Federal vs. State Judges

Federal Judges	Topic Area	State Judges
U.S. Supreme Court Justices Court of Appeals Judges District Court Judges	Types of Judges	County Court Judges Circuit Court Judges Appellate Court Judges Florida Supreme Court Justices
All appointed	Elected or Appointed	County and Circuit are elected District Courts of Appeal and Supreme Court are appointed (with merit retention votes)
None	Qualifications	Law degree Member of Florida Bar (County and Circuit 5 yrs; Appellate 10 yrs) Reside in geographical area of office

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Non-Partisan	Political Party Affiliations	Non-Partisan
Life (assuming good behavior)	Tenure	6 year terms Mandatory retirement at age 75
Oversee trials and hearings Facilitate trials Provide jury instructions Read briefs Listen to oral arguments Decide whether to affirm or reverse decisions of lower courts	Job Requirements	Oversee trials and hearings Facilitate trials Provide jury instructions Read briefs Listen to oral arguments Decide whether to affirm or reverse decisions of lower courts
Examine facts and arguments of case Consider state and federal laws Review past precedence and case law U.S. Constitution ultimate guide	Decision-Making Process	Examine facts and arguments of case Consider state and federal laws Review past precedence and case law Consider Florida Constitution U.S. Constitution ultimate guide