



AP Government & Politics: U.S. 2000 Student Samples

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Question 2

The Appointment of Supreme Court justices is very political. Some of the characteristics of the nominees that are politically relevant ~~are~~ during the appointment process are party identification, ~~and~~ policy alignment and ~~that~~ ~~that~~ political position.

Before the president appoints a Supreme Court judge, he takes a look at the political characteristics. The party identification is very important. A Democratic president is not likely to nominate a republican ~~judge~~ justice. As a result, the nominee's policy alignment will come under ~~scrutiny~~ scrutiny as previous voting patterns are likely to be looked at, to make sure that the justice is consistent in his views. The nominee's political position on issues will also be reviewed. The degree of extremism will be analyzed because it is a bad political move to appoint someone who might prove very radical.

The process of nominating candidates is not immune from interest groups, who are more than likely to try and influence the nomination. Lobbying is the most common way to influence any process. By applying political pressure, an interest group such as the National Rifle Association might lobby the president to appoint a republican, who shares the NRA's views on gun control and will likely vote on policy regarding weapons that the interest group stands for. Another method of influence is campaign contributions. An interest group that greatly contributes to a president's campaign is likely to ask for a nomination of an individual that will best represent those group's interests.

Conclusively, the Supreme Court is not "above politics"

Three ^{politically relevant} characteristics of Supreme Court nominees are ideology, sex, and race. Interest groups also have interests in justice appointments. Two methods used by them are: supporting a president, and supporting a Senator.

Ideology is a very important characteristic because obviously a president is going to want a justice who supports his/her views. Sex and race are more ~~political~~ political schemes than practicalities. Most presidents mainly appoint women, or minorities as justices so they can get in good with voters of the same characteristic.

~~The two ways~~ By supporting a certain presidential candidate, interest groups can make sure certain justices get appointed that will support the groups cause. Interest groups will also support certain Senators for elections so that the appointed justices will be approved.

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2

Supreme court is commonly thought to be above politics because the Judicial Branch the the law and the decisions made in supreme courts are final. However this isn't all true because Supreme court justices is really appointed by the president and ~~the~~ by the senate. The time and president and the majority of the senate ~~are~~ have a correlation between the appointment of the supreme court justices. If the president is republican, the majority of the ~~party~~ senate is republican and it is very likely that they will appoint a ~~pro~~ pro-republican supreme court justices. Meaning when there is a case or a decision that is to be made it is very likely that ~~pro~~ republicans will have full power and strength over a nation.