

Student Handout 2C: Judicial Branch

Article III of the Constitution identifies the third branch of our separated government, empowering the courts to decide cases and limiting them to the exercise of a certain kind of authority. It establishes the Supreme Court of the United States, and defines the crime of treason, the only crime listed in the Constitution.

Directions: Use the chart below to summarize important parts of Article III.

Article III	Constitutional Text	Summary
Section 1	The judicial power of the United States, shall be vested in one Supreme Court, and in such inferior courts as the Congress may from time to time ordain and establish.	A.
	The judges, both of the supreme and inferior courts, shall hold their offices during good behaviour, and shall, at stated times, receive for their services, a compensation, which shall not be diminished during their continuance in office	B.
Section 2 Clause 1	The judicial power shall extend to:	This section goes with C and D below.
Chunk 1	all cases, in law and equity, arising under this Constitution, the laws of the United States, and treaties made, or which shall be made, under their authority;-- to all cases affecting ambassadors, other public ministers and consuls;--to all cases of admiralty and maritime jurisdiction;-- to controversies to which the United States shall be a party;--	C.
Chunk 2	to controversies between two or more states;-- between a state and citizens of another state;-- between citizens of different states;-- between citizens of the same state claiming lands under grants of different states, and between a state, or the citizens thereof, and foreign states, citizens or subjects.	D.
	The trial of all crimes, except in	E.

Section 2	cases of impeachment, shall be by jury; and such trial shall be held in the state where the said crimes shall have been committed; but when not committed within any state, the trial shall be at such place or places as the Congress may by law have directed.	
Clause 3		