

SS.7.C.3.11

Diagram the levels, functions, and powers of the courts at the state and federal levels.

Also Assesses

SS.7.C.2.6 - Simulate the trial process and the role of juries in the administration of justice.

SS.7.C.3.11 Benchmark Clarification 4: Students will examine the significance of the role of juries in the American legal system.

Serving on a **jury** is one of the most important civic responsibilities of U.S. citizens. The right to a trial by one's peers is one of the most important parts of the American legal system. **Jurors** are expected to listen to the facts of the case and review the evidence presented in court. Then they deliberate (discuss the case) to make a decision about the case. The U.S. Constitution protects the right of every citizen to have a trial by jury in **criminal cases**.

criminal case - a case involving someone who is accused of committing an illegal activity

juror - a member of the jury

jury - a group of citizens sworn to give a true verdict according to the evidence presented in a court of law