



# Reading Guide

## Reading Guide

This is a reading guide to accompany the booklet, *The Federal Courts and What They Do*.

1. Please describe the differences between a Federal Court and a State Court.
2. Who decides how many district and appeals courts there will be?
3. Name what district court we are in? (map)
4. Name what appeals court we are in? (map)
5. What are the differences between a civil case and a criminal case?
6. Name 3 different types of cases that are tried in Federal Courts?
7. Name 3 things you should do if you watch a federal trial?
8. Using the Federal-State Court System Diagram, define the U.S. Magistrate and the U.S. District Court.
9. In a trial, please name the two types of evidence that the jury relies on to decide the case.
10. Judges are appointed by whom? Judges are confirmed by whom?
11. Describe what happens during a trial by summarizing in a sentence each step:
  - a. Pretrial activity in civil suits
  - b. Pretrial activity in criminal cases
  - c. Jury selection
  - d. Opening statements
  - e. Direct and cross-examination
  - f. Inadmissible evidence
  - g. Closing arguments and instructions
  - h. Post-Trial matters and sentencing
12. Explain what the Appellate Court procedure is?
13. Which court is the highest one in the nation?