

## Supreme Court Justice Characteristics

**DIRECTIONS:** If you were President of the United States, which of the following characteristics would you find most valuable in a nominee for Supreme Court Justice?

Put the following in order from most valuable characteristic to least valuable characteristic. Prepare a five- to seven-sentence explanation of your decisions.

Race/ethnicity

Gender

Sexual identity (gay, straight, bisexual, transgender)

Socioeconomic background

Academic background

Morality (have they ever cheated on a test, etc.)

Empathy (President Obama indicated that he wanted a judge who cared and could understand the difficulties of the average American)

Career as a lawyer (type of law practiced, percentage of cases won)

Career as a judge (types of cases heard, quality of written opinions, ABA rating)

Judicial philosophy (how they see their role as a judge and how they interpret the United States Constitution)

How much the possible nominee agrees with you