



JUS 261 Module One Short Paper Guidelines and Rubric

The Module One short paper examines the American federal court system. This paper provides an opportunity for you to check and demonstrate your knowledge of how a case moves through the three tiers of this court system, from the trial court to the U.S. Supreme Court. Reference your textbook reading and the module resources in your submission.

Specifically, the following **critical elements** must be addressed:

- **Tiers:** Describe the three tiers of the American federal court system
- **Roles:** Describe the role that each tier plays in the American federal court system
- **Types of Cases:** Identify the types of cases heard in each of the federal courts and which federal courts hear them
- **Identification of Court:** Identify which court a federal case arising in your hometown would start in
- **Process:** Explain the process by which the hometown case might reach the U.S. Supreme Court, identifying any other court or courts in which the case might be heard

Guidelines for Submission: Your short paper must be submitted as a one- to two-page Microsoft Word document with double spacing, 12-point Times New Roman font, one-inch margins, and at least three sources cited in APA format.

Instructor Feedback: This activity uses an integrated rubric in Blackboard. Students can view instructor feedback in the Grade Center. For more information, review [these instructions](#).

Critical Elements	Exemplary (100%)	Proficient (85%)	Needs Improvement (55%)	Not Evident (0%)	Value
Tiers	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes specific examples based on research	Accurately describes the tiers of the American federal court system using specific details	Describes the tiers of the American federal court system but descriptions are inaccurate or lack specific details	Does not describe the tiers of the American federal court system	15
Roles	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes specific examples based on research	Accurately describes the role that each tier plays in the American federal court system using specific details	Describes the role that each tier plays in the American federal court system but description is inaccurate or lacks specific details	Does not describe the role that each tier plays in the American federal court system	25
Types of Cases	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes specific examples based on research	Accurately identifies the types of cases that are heard in each of the federal courts, including which federal courts hear them	Identifies the types of cases that are heard in each of the federal courts, including which federal courts hear them, but information is inaccurate or lacks specific details	Does not identify the types of cases that are heard in each of the federal courts, or which federal courts hear them	15

Identification of Court	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes specific examples based on research	Accurately identifies which court a hometown federal case would start in	Identifies which court a hometown federal case would start in, but the information provided is inaccurate	Does not identify which court a hometown federal case would start in	15
Process	Meets “Proficient” criteria and includes specific examples based on research	Explains the process by which the hometown case might reach the U.S. Supreme Court, identifying any other court or courts along the way in which that case might be heard using specific details	Explains the process by which the hometown case might reach the U.S. Supreme Court, but does not identify any other court or courts along the way in which that case might be heard and/or lacks specific details	Does not explain the process by which the hometown case might reach the U.S. Supreme Court, and does not identify any other court or courts along the way in which that case might be heard	20
Articulation of Response	Submission is free of errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, and organization and is presented in a professional and easy-to-read format	Submission has no major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization	Submission has major errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that negatively impact readability and articulation of main ideas	Submission has critical errors related to citations, grammar, spelling, syntax, or organization that prevent understanding of ideas	10
Earned Total					100%