Chapter 14: The Federal Judicial System (pgs. 383-392)

I. Introduction (Summarize the main points in a good paragraph)

A. *Critical Thinking*: How does the Supreme Court decide what is a political issue and what is a judicial issue (look at box on pg. 384 for help)? Explain.

II. The Federal Judicial System (Summarize the main points in **two** good paragraphs)

A. *Critical Thinking*: Do you agree that federal judges should have their jobs for life? Explain.

B. Define **Jurisdiction (of a court)**

C. Define **Original** **Jurisdiction**

D. Define **Judicial Review**

E. Define **Precedent**

F. *Critical Thinking*: What could happen if lower courts did not follow the precedent set by the higher courts? Explain.

G. Define **Writ of Certiorari**

H. *Critical Thinking*: Why does the Supreme Court take so few cases? Explain.

I. Define **Brief**

J. Define **Judicial Conference**

K. *Critical Thinking*: Why does the Supreme Court hold their conferences in secret? Explain.

L. Define **Decision**

M. Define **Opinion (of a court)**

N. Define **Majority Opinion**

O. Define **Plurality Opinion**

P. Define **Concurring Opinion**

Q. Define **Dissenting Opinion**

R. *Critical Thinking*: Why is it important that the Supreme Court explain the reasoning behind their opinions? Explain.

S. *Critical Thinking*: Why would the lower courts in some ways be more important than the Supreme Court? Explain.

T. *Critical Thinking*: Is it better for state judge to be elected like in Kentucky or appointed? Explain.

Quiz

Write two good multiple choice questions (not definitions) based on your reading in this section. Be sure to mark your correct answer.