

**Annenberg Public Policy Center
2021 Civics Knowledge Survey**

Thinking about the Supreme Court, please tell me if you strongly agree, somewhat agree, somewhat disagree or strongly disagree with the following statements.

- a. If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagreed with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether

	AGREE (NET)	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	DISAGREE (NET)	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	N
9/12/2021	34	11	23	65	24	41	1	<i>1,008</i>
2019	20	8	12	77	20	57	3	<i>1,104</i>
2018	21	9	12	73	22	51	7	<i>1,008</i>
2013	23	8	15	74	23	51	3	<i>1,302</i>
2011	22	11	11	74	18	56	5	<i>1,230</i>
2007	17	8	9	81	20	61	2	<i>1,514</i>
2005	21	10	11	75	22	53	3	<i>1,504</i>

- b. When Congress disagrees with the Supreme Court's decisions, Congress should pass legislation saying the Supreme Court can no longer rule on that issue or topic.

	AGREE (NET)	Strongly agree	Somewhat agree	DISAGREE (NET)	Somewhat disagree	Strongly disagree	Don't know/ Refused	N
9/12/2021	38	12	26	61	28	33	1	<i>1,008</i>
2018	28	11	17	65	22	43	7	<i>1,008</i>
2013	23	6	17	71	22	49	6	<i>1,302</i>
2011	23	8	15	69	21	48	9	<i>1,230</i>
2007	22	8	14	73	22	51	6	<i>1,514</i>

Now, I'd like you to think about individual Supreme Court justices. Which comes closer to your view:

	9/12/2021	2020	2019
Supreme Court justices set aside their personal and political views and make rulings based on the constitution, the law, and the facts of the case	59	56	49
Supreme Court justices nominated by Democratic presidents are more likely to make liberal rulings and Supreme Court justices nominated by Republicans are more likely to make conservative rulings regardless of the constitution, the law, and the facts of the case	37	37	41
Don't know	2	6	7
Refused	1	1	3
<i>N</i>	1,008	1,009	1,104

**Annenberg Public Policy Center
2021 Constitution Day Survey (previously released)**

Do you happen to know any of the three branches of government?

	Yes	No	Don't know	Refused	N
8/8/2021	83	16	*	1	1,007
2020	80	18	1	*	1,009
2019	84	14	2	-	1,104
2018	74	25	1	*	1,008
2017	74	26	1	*	1,013
2016	77	21	2	*	1,021
2015	74	22	4	*	1,012
2014	72	25	3	*	1,416
2013	75	24	1	*	1,302
2011	73	22	6	*	1,230
2007	74	24	2	*	
2006	68	26	5	*	1,002

*=less than 0.5%

Would you mind naming any of them, the three branches of government?

**CIV12/CIV13 Summary Table
Based on Total Respondents**

	Named all three branches	Named two branches	Named one branch	Could not name any branches	Refused	N
8/8/2021	56	14	9	20	1	1,007
2020	51	17	8	23	1	1,009
2019	39	14	25	22	1	1,104
2018	32	13	21	33	1	1,008
2017	26	13	27	33	1	1,013
2016	26	12	31	31	-	1,021
2015	31	12	24	32	*	1,012
2014	36	16	13	35	*	1,416
2013	38	18	15	29	-	1,302
2011	38	13	16	33	*	1,230
2007	36	18	15	30	*	1,514,
2006	33	14	17	36	-	1,002

*=less than 0.5%

Correct answers= Executive branch, Legislative branch, Judicial branch

If the U.S. Supreme Court rules on a case 5 to 4, does this mean? (READ LIST)

	8/8/2021	2020	2019	2018
The decision is the law and needs to be followed	61	54	59	55
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	19	17	12	17
The decision is sent back to the federal court of appeals* to be decided there	15	13	10	14
Don't know (NOT READ)	4	13	18	13
Refused (NOT READ)	1	2	1	1
<i>N</i>	1,007	1,009	1,104	1,008

Correct answer= The decision is the law and needs to be followed.

*** In the past, the term "lower courts" was used.**

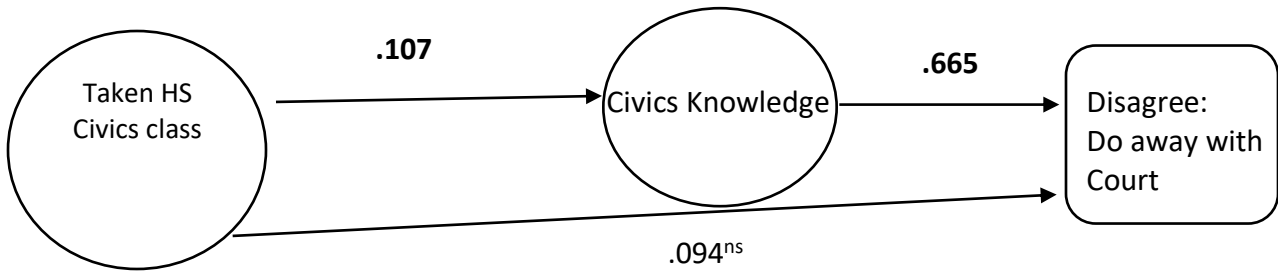
FOR COMPARISON ONLY:

	2015	2014	2013	2011	2007
The decision is the law and needs to be followed	53	47	45	48	45
The decision is sent back to Congress for reconsideration	15	21	20	13	14
The decision is sent back to the lower courts to be decided there	13	8	8	10	7
Don't know (NOT READ)	18	25	26	29	34
Refused (NOT READ)	1	-	*	*	*
<i>N</i>	1,012	1,416	1,302	1,230	1,514

*=less than 0.5%

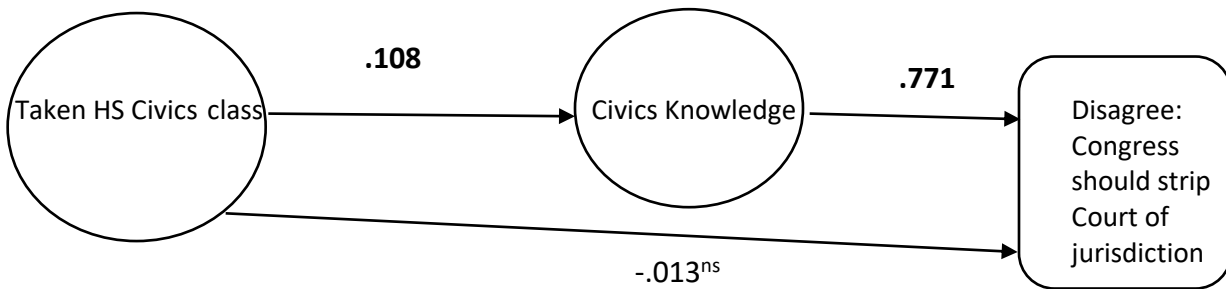
Correct answer= The decision is the law and needs to be followed.

Path Analysis measuring the indirect effect of taking a high school civics class (mediated by civics knowledge) on agreement with the following statements: “If the Supreme Court started making a lot of rulings that most Americans disagree with, it might be better to do away with the Court altogether” (Do away with Court), and “When Congress disagrees with the Supreme Court’s decisions, Congress should pass legislation saying the Supreme Court can no longer rule on that issue or subject (Congress should strip Court of jurisdiction).



Indirect effect of Taking a high school civics class on Disagreeing with the statement about doing away with the Court (see above for full wording):

	<u>Effect</u>	<u>BootSE</u>	<u>Boot Lower Level Confidence Interval</u>	<u>Boot Upper Level Confidence Interval</u>
Civics Knowledge	.0711	.0202	.0324	.1133



Indirect effect of Taking a high school civics class on Disagreeing with the statement that Congress should strip Court of jurisdiction(see above for full wording):

	<u>Effect</u>	<u>BootSE</u>	<u>Boot Lower Level Confidence Interval</u>	<u>Boot Upper Level Confidence Interval</u>
Civics Knowledge	.0831	.0198	.0467	.243

SURVEY METHODOLOGY

ANNENBERG CIVICS KNOWLEDGE SURVEY METHODOLOGY

The 2021 Annenberg Civics Knowledge survey was conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center via telephone (CATI) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from **September 7-12, 2021** among 1,008 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 807 cell phone respondents and 35 respondents who completed the survey in Spanish.

Data were weighted to the most recent March Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey estimates for gender, age, race, education, marital status, Census region, population density, and phone-usage. The adjusted margin of error is +/- 4.0% overall at the 95% confidence level. The response rate was 3% (AAPOR RR 3). Totals in the topline may add up to either greater than or less than 100% due to rounding. For more detail on the methodology, including sampling, within household respondent selection, weighting variables and procedures, please visit [SSRS Omnibus](#).

Some data presented in this release are from the Annenberg Public Policy Center's 2021 Constitution Day Survey, part 1 of the Annenberg Civics Knowledge survey. It was conducted for the Annenberg Public Policy Center via telephone (CATI) by SSRS, an independent research company. Interviews were conducted from **August 3-8, 2021** among 1,007 U.S. adults, aged 18 and older. Respondents were drawn from a national probability sample in all 50 states. The dual frame sample included 776 cell phone respondents and 34 respondents who completed the survey in Spanish.

Data were weighted to the most recent March Supplement of the U.S. Census Bureau's Current Population Survey estimates for gender, age, race, education, marital status, Census region, population density, and phone-usage. The adjusted margin of error for total respondents in the sample is +/- 3.8 percentage points at the 95% confidence level. The response rate was 3% (AAPOR RR 3). Totals in the topline may add up to either greater than or less than 100% due to rounding. For more detail on the methodology, including sampling, within household respondent selection, weighting variables and procedures, please visit [SSRS Omnibus](#).