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LC25. Interesting People – Sonia Sotomayor

Student Name: _____ Student ID Number: _____

Instructor: _____ Level: _____ Date: _____

For media links in this activity, visit [the LLC ESL Tutoring website for Upper Level SDLAs](#). Find your SDLA number to see all the resources to finish your SDLA.

Section 1: Background

In the United States, each state has an elected state government with its own set of laws and system of courts. For example, something may be legal in California but illegal in Texas. Nevertheless, the federal government has laws and courts that preside over all fifty states. For that reason, the federal government has more power than the states.

How much do you know about the U.S. government? Do a simple internet search of the keywords in **bold** to find answers to the questions below

1. What are the **three branches of government**? _____
2. What is the **Supreme Court**? _____
3. How many **Supreme Court justices** are there? _____

Section 2: Vocabulary

Study Vocabulary

Study the vocabulary list below. The definitions and transcriptions are from the [Learner's Dictionary](#). These are not the *only* definitions, but these meanings relate to the video you are going to watch.

Word	Phonetic Transcription	Part of Speech	Definition
Petrified	/ˈpetrəˌfaɪd/	Adjective	very afraid or frightened of something
Insecure	/ˌɪnsɪˈkjə/	Adjective	not confident about yourself or your ability to do things well
Discipline	/ˈdɪsəplən/	Noun	the ability to keep working at something that is difficult
Sterilize	/ˈsterəˌlaɪz/	Verb	to clean (something) by destroying germs or bacteria
The projects	/ˈpraːˌdʒɛkts/	Noun	housing built for people with low incomes



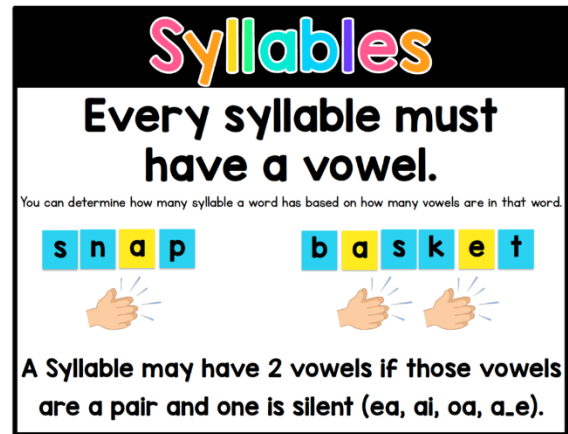


Alienated	/ˈeɪlɪjəˌneɪtəd/	Adjective	not belonging to a group; feeling like you are separate from the group
Curious	/ˈkjʊərijəs/	Adjective	having a desire to learn or know more about something or someone
Chronic	/ˈkrɑːnɪk/	Adjective	continuing or occurring again and again for a long time

Count the Syllables

Read each word aloud and count the number of syllables in that word. Then write the number of syllables next to the word.

- ___1. Petrified
- ___2. Insecure
- ___3. Discipline
- ___4. Sterilize
- ___5. Projects
- ___6. Alienated
- ___7. Curious
- ___8. Chronic



Syllables

Every syllable must have a vowel.

You can determine how many syllable a word has based on how many vowels are in that word.

s n a p b a s k e t

A Syllable may have 2 vowels if those vowels are a pair and one is silent (ea, ai, oa, a_e).

Match the Synonyms

A synonym is “a word that has the same meaning as another word in the same language.” Match the vocabulary to the correct synonym. Use the chart on the previous page or the [Learner’s Dictionary](#) to view the definitions.

- | | |
|------------------|----------------|
| ___1. Petrified | a. Alone |
| ___2. Insecure | b. Control |
| ___3. Discipline | c. Lifelong |
| ___4. Sterilize | d. Unconfident |
| ___5. Alienated | e. Disinfect |
| ___6. Curious | f. Inquisitive |
| ___7. Chronic | g. Terrified |





Section 3: Learn about Justice Sonia Sotomayor

Watch a Video

Since 2009, Sonia Sotomayor has been an Associate Justice on the Supreme Court of the United States of America, the highest court in the federal government. She is the third woman and first woman of color in U.S. history to serve on the Supreme Court. Justice Sotomayor came from humble beginnings and graduated from Princeton and then Yale. Watch "[The Four Justices: Justice Sonia Sotomayor](#)," where Sonia Sotomayor talks about her life in an interview. **Take notes as you watch.**



Answer the Video Questions

Now that you have watched the video, use your notes to answer the questions below.

1. Where is Sonia Sotomayor from? _____
2. Where were her parents from? _____
3. What disease does she have? _____
4. What two things did she learn from having an illness as a child?

5. What did her mother value most? _____
6. What two things did her mother do to better her education?

7. What is the most important ingredient for success? _____
8. What is the most important question? _____





Section 4: Discussion

Agree or Disagree

Read each quotation. Circle Agree if you agree with Justice Sotomayor’s statement, or circle Disagree if you do not agree with what she has said. Then explain why you agree or disagree. Use your personal experiences to support your answers.

- 1. “There are uses to adversity, and they don't reveal themselves until tested. Whether it's serious illness, financial hardship, or the simple constraint of parents who speak limited English, difficulty can tap unexpected strengths.” – Sonia Sotomayor

I agree/disagree because...

Three horizontal lines for writing a response to the first quotation.

- 2. “I do know one thing about me: I don't measure myself by others' expectations or let others define my worth.” – Sonia Sotomayor

I agree/disagree because...

Three horizontal lines for writing a response to the second quotation.

- 3. “It is important for all of us to appreciate where we come from and how that history has really shaped us in ways that we might not understand.” –Sonia Sotomayor

I agree/disagree because...

Three horizontal lines for writing a response to the third quotation.





Discuss Your Opinion

Write your answers to the following questions in the space provided. Then share your answers with the teacher during your tutoring session.

1. Justice Sotomayor grew up in a poor neighborhood, but her mother worked hard so that she could get a good education at a private school. There are many children who come from neighborhoods like Justice Sotomayor's and who need to work much harder to get a good education in order to succeed. How can we (the people or the government) invest in poorer neighborhoods so that more children can succeed?

2. Princeton is one of the most prestigious universities in the United States. Princeton graduates move on to have important positions in government and business (for example). When Justice Sotomayor attended, there were only a few students of Latin descent on campus. Why is diversity important at universities?





3. Justice Sotomayor has been a supporter of affirmative action. Affirmative action refers to government policies put in place in order to make sure that *all* people (regardless of race, gender, income, etc.) have equal opportunities for jobs and education. Some people have argued that affirmative action can be unfair for college admissions because universities should admit students only on merits. In your opinion, what are the advantages *and/or* disadvantages of affirmative action?





Section 5: What Did I Learn

Complete this table BEFORE meeting with a tutor.

Communication Skill	I can't do this YET. 	I can do this WITH help. 	I can do this WITHOUT help. 	I can TEACH this to a classmate. 
I can understand some vocabulary and synonyms and can accurately say the vocabulary.				
I can recall key facts about Sonia Sotomayor.				
I can interpret the meaning of a quotation and support my agreement or disagreement with personal examples.				
I can communicate my opinion about social issues.				

Here are some words/phrases I need to practice.

Good Job!

Now make an appointment

with a tutor on the LLC ESL Tutoring Website

(www.mtsac.edu/llc/passportrewards/llctutoring).








Section 6: Practice with a Tutor!

After completing the self-assessment, meet with a tutor and give this completed SDLA to the tutor. The tutor will give you feedback.

Grading Rubric

Possible Points	Need Practice  (0-1 Point)	Good Job  (2-3 Points)	Excellent Work  (4-5 Points)
Content	Not enough information provided in responses and often does not use correct vocabulary.	Provides most important information in responses and some of the time uses correct vocabulary.	Provides all necessary information in responses and most of the time uses correct vocabulary.
Skill: Speaking	More than 6 mistakes saying words; needs guessing more than 3 times.	Not more than 5 mistakes saying words; needs guessing on 1-2 words or sentences.	Not more than 2 mistakes saying words; needs no guess about meaning.
Oral Fluency	Speaks mostly in phrases, individual words; many pauses.	Sometimes speaks in complete sentences; several pauses.	Speaks in complete sentences; a couple pauses okay.

*Students must receive at least 10 points to move on

Possible Points: _____ / 15

Tutor Comments:

Congratulations! Keep going.

You have successfully completed this SDLA and are ready to continue to the next.

Work on this more.

You have not yet mastered this SDLA. It is recommended that you complete it again.

Tutor Signature: _____

Date: _____

