**We The People**

**“A Conversation on the Constitution with Chief Justice John G. Roberts”**

**Mr. Fernandez**

Please respond to the following as you review the interview of Chief Justice John G. Roberts:

1. Why is it important to have courts?
2. Why is it important to have a “supreme” court?
3. Why does the Constitution devote less space to the courts (Article III) than to the congress or presidency?
4. About how many applications does the Supreme Court review each year?
5. About what percentage of those cases do they actually hear?
6. What is a “writ of certiorari?” (Look this one up if needed)
7. What “kind” of cases are the Supreme Court likely to take?
8. Who was Clarence Gideon? (Use link on website for assistance if needed)
9. Does it matter whether a case comes through the federal or state courts?
10. The Supreme Court decides to hear a case based upon the “Rule of \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ (#).”
11. How do lawyers prepare to argue a case before the Supreme Court?
12. How are cases decided by the court? Describe the process briefly with a few facts.
13. Why do the justices make their arguments in order of seniority?
14. What is the only special power of the Chief Justice?
15. What does it mean when Chief Justice Roberts says, “the court’s decision becomes part of the law of the land?”
16. Do justices ever change their minds while deciding a case? Explain briefly.
17. Why do justices write opinions?
18. According the Chief Justice Roberts, which Chief Justice was the greatest? Explain.
19. What are the special responsibilities of the Chief Justice?
20. Who determines the number of justices on the Supreme Court?
21. How many justices are currently on the Supreme Court?
22. How do the courts apply the Constitution to contemporary issues?
23. Describe the significance of precedents in the Supreme Court reaching a decision.
24. According to Chief Justice Roberts, is it more difficult to look at the claim of a convicted murderer? Explain briefly.