The Judicial System Notes

1. There are 2 separate court systems in the U.S.
2. Federal
3. State
4. Jurisdiction the authority to hear a case.
5. It depends on the type of case. Federal cases are tried in Federal Courts. All others in State Courts.
6. Original vs. Appellate Jurisdiction.
	1. Original is the first time a case is heard.
	2. Appellate only hear cases on appeal from lower courts.

They don’t “retry” the case. They review the lower courts trial to determine if something was improper in the trial.

* + - Violation of rights, incorrect procedure, etc.
		- Each Supreme Court is primarily appellate.
1. Criminal or Civil courts.
2. Plaintiff- The party that files the law suit.
3. Defendant- The party against whom the complaint is filed.
4. Criminal Court- Where person is being tried for a crime.
	1. Plaintiff is the government- the prosecution State or Federal.
	2. Defendant could receive punishment in form of fine or imprisonment.
	3. Grand jury- decides if there is enough evidence for a trial. If so, they hand down an indictment- being charged with a crime.
	4. Petit Jury- delivers a verdict- determines guilt or innocence- must be beyond a reasonable doubt and must be unanimous.
5. Civil Court- Non criminal cases between private parties.
	1. Plaintiff is suing defendant. Looking for some sort of remedy, usually money.
	2. Negligence: Causing harm by doing something a reasonably prudent person would not have done.
	3. Burden of proof is not as great.