

Radiolab's *More Perfect* "The Political Thicket"

Answer this question before you listen to the podcast:

- How would you feel if you were told that everyone's vote doesn't count equally. That some votes have more weight than others? Would that change your understandings of elections?

Directions: Listen to the podcast, and carefully answer the questions below. You may need to pause the podcast to write your answers before moving on.

Describe each of the following justices:

1. What did Chief Justice Earl Warren consider his most important case? _____

Describe each of the follow Supreme Court Justices:	
Justice Frankfurter	Justice William O. Douglas
How did each feel about the role of the court?	

2. How was Justice Whitaker markedly different from the above two characters?

3. Why did Justice Whitaker struggle making decisions on the Supreme Court early on?

4. What is Baker v. Carr about on the surface? Why was it an issue at that current moment? (Make sure to related this discussion to Tennessee).

5. How do the issues with district representation relate to race?

6. Why didn't Justice Frankfurter want to get involved with the Baker v. Carr case?

7. What did the lawyers from Tennessee argue their defense?

8. Why do elected representatives have a vested interest in keeping district lines the same?

9. What is the "political thicket?"

10. How did the weight of the Baker v. Carr decision impact Justice Whitaker?

11. What was the decision in Baker v. Carr in the end? What did they ultimately decide?

12. Why is the Warren Court considered a revolution?

13. How does this relate to the election of 2000?

14. **HTS - Continuity v. Change** - How did the Baker v. Carr case change the Supreme Court?
