

*Divided Government: How a Supreme Court Confirmation Process of the 1860s Is Demonstrative of Contentious Trends*

Presenter Kaitlin Montgomery, Speech-Language Pathology major

Mentored by Dr. Thomas Hunter

Following the death of Supreme Court Justice Peter V. Daniel, this research focuses on the sequence of events that led to the nomination and confirmation of Supreme Court Justice Samuel Miller. The purpose of this research is to determine how the divisiveness of America's government during the 1860s can be represented by the Supreme Court confirmation process. The information used in this study was drawn from original newspapers from the era. Supplemental comments are made from supporting books and articles. This study explores the background and decision process of each major political player in the confirmation process: President Buchanan, President Lincoln, and individuals within the Senate. All potential nominees and candidates are examined. Trends and happenings gleaned from confirmation processes give insight into the functioning and contentiousness of America's government at different points in history. From this research, a thorough analysis of America's government at one of the most pivotal times in history, during the Civil War, is possible.