# INSTRUCTIONS

This is a task where you will be paid according to how accurate your beliefs are about Supreme Court decisions that will be decided in the next few months. You will be asked to place some bets on your beliefs about the vote of the full court of 9 Justices. You will be rewarded for your answer to one of these questions, so you should think carefully about your answer to each question.

Here is an example of what the computer display will look like.
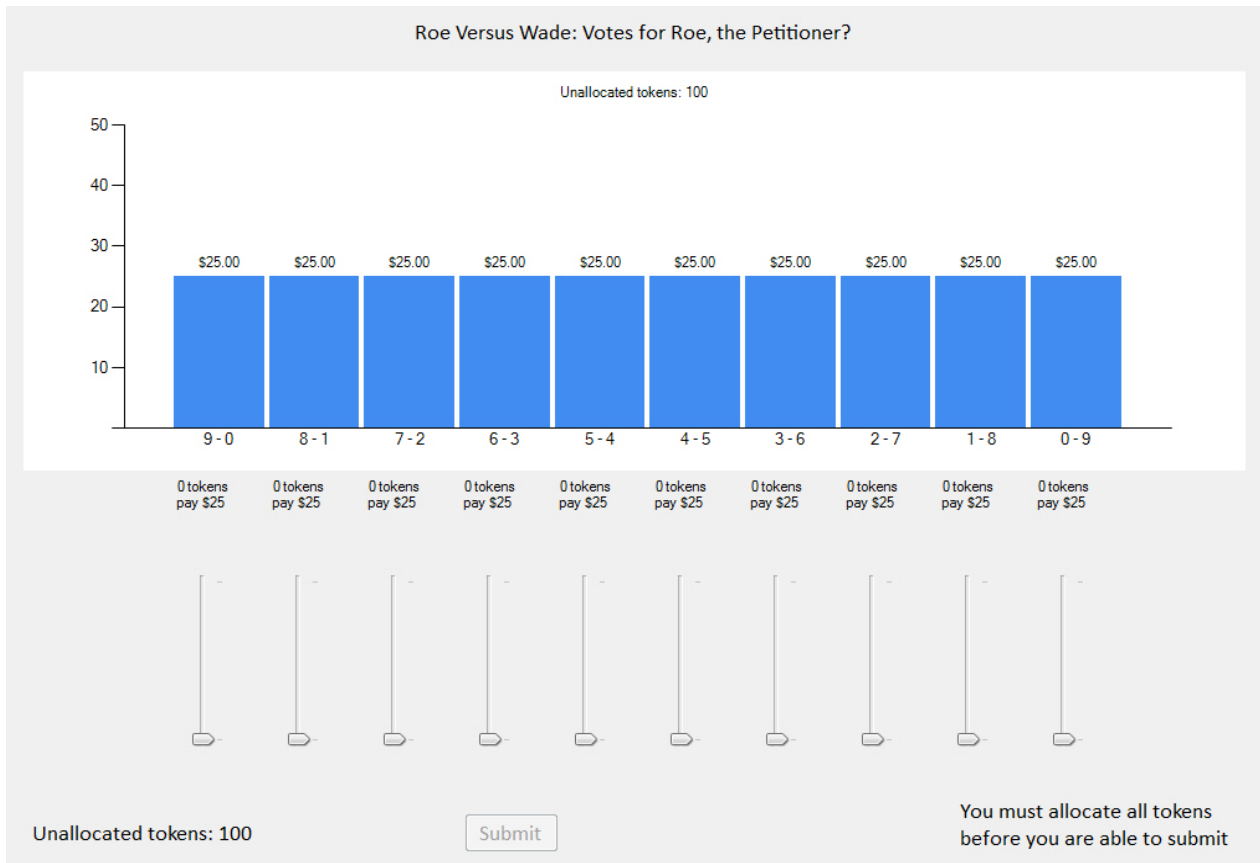
The display on your computer will be larger and easier to read. You have 10 sliders to adjust, shown at the bottom of the screen, and you have 100 tokens to allocate across the sliders. Each slider allows you to allocate tokens to reflect your belief about the answer to this question. You must allocate all 100 tokens, and in this example we start with 0 tokens allocated to each slider. As you allocate tokens, by adjusting sliders, the payoffs displayed on the screen will change. Your earnings are based on the payoffs that are displayed after you have allocated all 100 tokens.

You can earn up to $50 in this task.

You will see the name of the case at the top. You will be provided with some background on the case. The example we use here is the famous abortion case, *Roe v. Wade*, decided in the 1973 term of the Supreme Court. You will be told some facts about the case, such as the following:

In Texas, State law prohibited the termination of a pregnancy by artificial means (surgery) except when the life of the mother was in danger. The statute was construed as a "nearly complete ban on abortion." A Texas woman, claiming privacy as a "fundamental right," challenged the Texas statute. Roe and a companion case from Georgia, Doe v. Bolton, were the first cases to test, in the Court, the newly recognized "right of privacy" against the "compelling interest" of the States to regulate abortions.

The argument for Roe: Under the Bill of Rights, a woman has the right to terminate her pregnancy. It is improper for a State to deny individuals the personal, marital, familial, and sexual right to privacy. Moreover, in no case in its history has the Court declared that a fetus—a developing infant in the womb—is a person. Therefore, the fetus cannot be said to have any legal "right to life." Because it is unduly intrusive, the Texas law is unconstitutional and should be overturned.

The argument for Wade: The State has a duty to protect prenatal life. Life is present at the moment of conception. The unborn are people, and as such are entitled to protection under the Constitution. The Texas law is a valid exercise of police powers reserved to the States in order to protect the health and safety of citizens, including the unborn. The law is constitutional and should be upheld.

You are not being asked how you would personally vote to decide this case. Instead we are asking you to tell us what you think the Supreme Court vote will be when it is announced.

Where you position each slider depends on your beliefs about the correct answer to the question. Note that the bars above each slider correspond to that particular slider. In our example, the tokens you allocate to each bar will naturally reflect your beliefs about the likely Supreme Court decision. Each bar shows the amount of money you could earn if the actual Supreme Court decision is in the interval shown under the bar. As you can see, the labels under each bar show the vote *for* the Petitioner in the case, which is Roe.

To illustrate how you use these sliders, suppose you think that Roe is going to lose, but that the vote will be close. There is some chance that Roe wins with a **5 - 4** majority, some chance that Roe loses with a **4 - 5** minority, and some chance that Roe loses with a **3 - 6** minority. Here is how you might allocate your 100 tokens to reflect these beliefs:

Roe Versus Wade: Votes for Roe, the Petitioner?
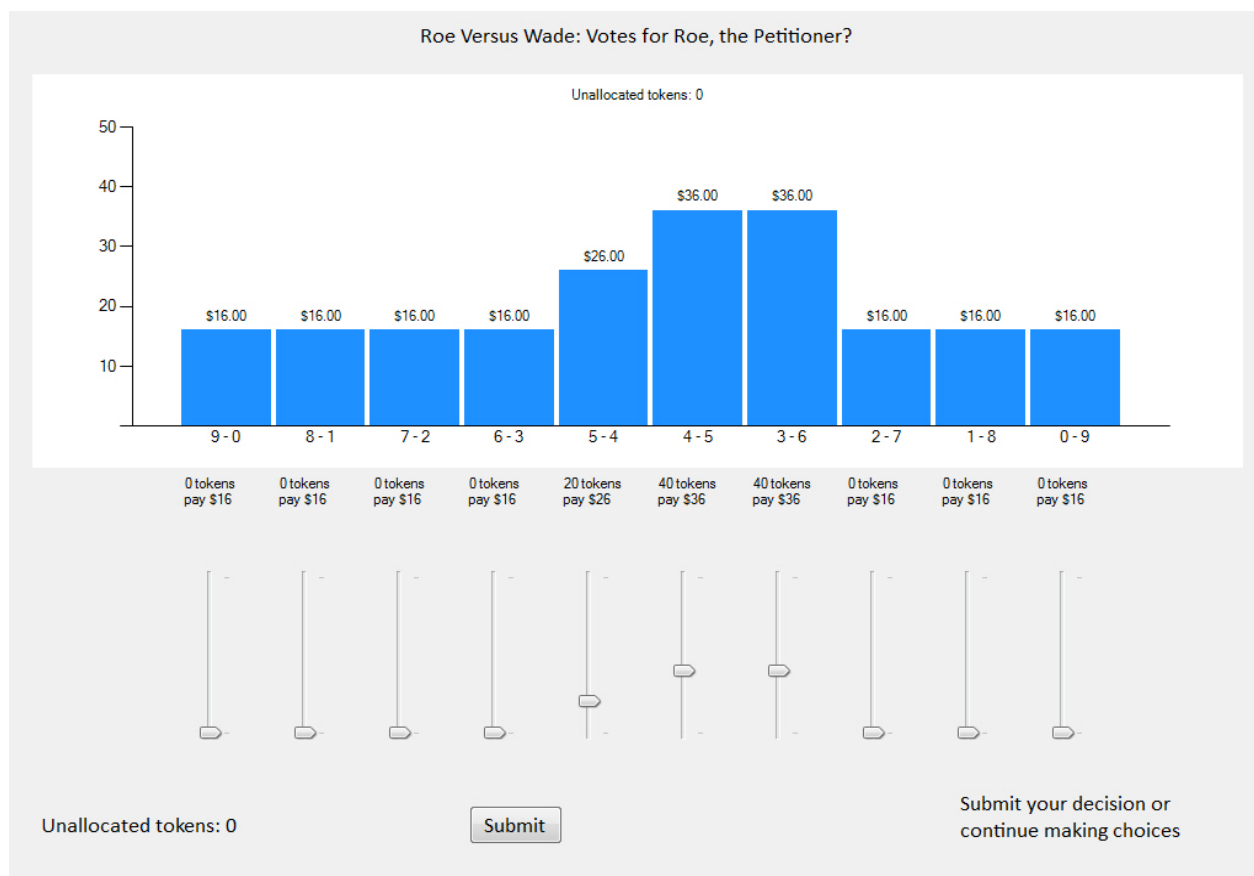
You can see in this picture that if indeed the vote is a **5 - 4** majority for Roe, you would earn $26, if it was a **4 - 5** minority for Roe you would earn $36, if it was a **3 - 6** minority for Roe would would earn $36, and for any other vote outcome you would earn $16.

You can adjust the allocation as much as you want to best reflect your personal beliefs about the Supreme Court decision. Your earnings depend on your reported beliefs and, of course, the true answer.

Suppose you had put all of your eggs in one basket, and allocated all 100 tokens to the interval corresponding to a **6 - 3** majority for Roe. Then you would have faced the earnings outcomes shown here:

Roe Versus Wade: Votes for Roe, the Petitioner?
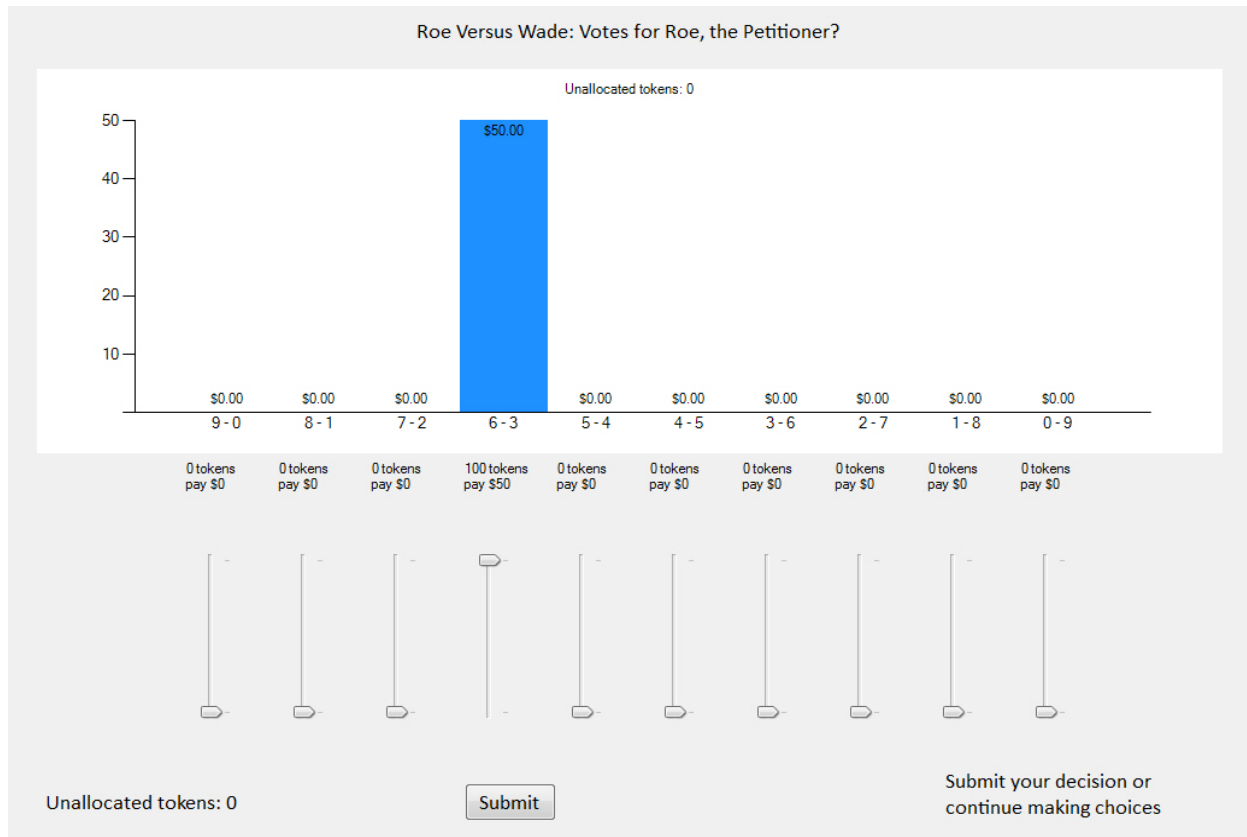
Note the "good news" and "bad news" here. If the actual vote was indeed a **6 - 3** majority for Roe, you would earn the maximum payoff shown here as $50. But if the actual vote was a **5 - 4** majority for Roe, or a minority for Roe, you would have earned nothing in this task. In fact, the decision in 1973 was a **7 - 2** majority for Roe, so if you had put all of your eggs in the **6 - 3** basket, you would have earned nothing.

It is up to you to balance the strength of your personal beliefs with the possibility of them being wrong. There are three important points for you to keep in mind when making your decisions:

- **First, your belief about the correct answer to each question is a personal judgment that depends on the information you have.**
- **Second, depending on your choices and the correct answer you can earn up to $50.**
- **Third, your choices might also depend on your willingness to take risks or to gamble.**

The decisions you make are a matter of personal choice. Please work silently, and make your choices by thinking carefully about the questions you are presented with.

When you are satisfied with your decisions, you should click on the **Submit** button and confirm your choices. When you are finished we will roll dice to determine which question will be played out. The experimenter will record your potential earnings according to the choices you made.

The questions we ask you today will be about things that will happen in the future, when the Supreme Court announces the decisions in the coming months. If we do have to send you any earnings in the future, we will use *PayPal* to do that. *PayPal* is an online payment service. When your earnings are transferred, *PayPal* will send you an e-mail notification with a link to their website. If you do not have a *PayPal* account, you can sign up for free by following the instructions in your e-mail notification and on their website. Alternatively, you could register before you receive the e-mail notification at: https://www.paypal.com. If we need to send you money in the future, it is important that you provide us with a working e-mail address of your choice at the end of the experiment. We will not be able to transfer your earnings unless you provide us with a valid e-mail address. Note that we will only use this information for payment purposes. It will not be used to identify you or your choices in the experiment, and we will not share this e-mail address with anyone else.

You will be paid today for any earnings in other tasks, and your show-up fee. We will only be using *PayPal* for the earnings from this task.

Once your earnings are added to your *PayPal* balance, they will immediately be available for online purchases. You can also request that *PayPal* sends you a check a few days later. Alternatively, you could transfer the money to your bank account by linking it to your *PayPal* account.

We transfer the money via *PayPal* so that you can be paid quickly and conveniently. *PayPal* is a private company. Georgia State University has no authority to handle any disputes you may have with *PayPal*, and cannot take any responsibility for your interactions with them. Moreover, Georgia State University is not responsible for any expenses required by *PayPal* for their services. Fees may apply, for example, if you use your *PayPal* balance to send money internationally or if you pay with a debit card that is linked to your *PayPal* account.

We will now have a video demonstration of how you make decisions in this task, using the same hypothetical example. You can then raise your hand if you need more explanation, or replay these instructions. Here is the video demonstration...