Evaluate the Supreme Court’s process of accepting, hearing, and deciding cases.

The supreme court decides to hear or reject a case based on the writs of certiorari which is a request for the supreme court to order the records of the lower courts in order to review. All petition must meet two criteria. The first is that the case must come from an US court of appeal, Military court of appeal, district court, or state court of last resort. Secondly the case must involve a federal question. Clerks review the writs of certiorari amongst other clerks and then to the justices office. From there the cases are put on to a discussion list and a dead list. The justices debate and uses the rule of four to vote which case to hear. Some cases are selected over others because they had certain characteristics. Which include federal government asking for review, case involves conflict in the court of appeals, case presents a civil right of civil liberty question, case involve the ideology of the justices, and the case has significant social or political interest. Once a case is accepted lawyers begin to write their argument with added changes that would help the court find favor in their client. Then oral argument begin in which there are allowed a half hour to present the case, and answer questions from the bench. After voting and the justices has made a decision they must make a formal opinion of the court.