

Interest Group Assignment

A key aspect of any interest group is that it attempts to change or affect policy. The main way that interest groups try to affect policy is through lobbying efforts of members of Congress. The interest group you select must do this... or else it is probably not an interest group!

Directions: After reading about interest groups in the class textbook you will now identify an interest group to better understand how they work..

1. What is the name of your interest group?
2. Describe the purpose of your interest group's website. What are they trying to accomplish with their website (i.e. Are they trying to recruit members?, pressure Congress?, publicize their cause?, other?)?
3. Describe the interest group. What cause does it advocate? What change does it want and why? What are its goals?
4. What are some of the different activities that your interest groups partakes in to achieve their goals? Provide a minimum of 2 specific examples.
5. Does your group seem to be a more extreme or mainstream group? How could you tell?
6. What would you do if you were to get involved with this group? Do you feel like you could make a difference through this group? How so? Explain.
7. If you were to join this interest group, what incentives would you gain? What benefits?
8. Now that you've researched a certain interest group- make up your own! Write out the following information for your interest group (that you created!):
 - a. Name
 - b. Issue you are concerned AND goals you would like to achieve
 - c. At least 2 ways that you are going to take action to reach these goals (remember the political aspects of interest groups)
 - d. Explain at least one way that you are going to try to get people to join your interest group.
 - e. Draw a symbol for this interest group!

HOW DO I FIND AN INTEREST GROUP?

** Think about whether you already know of an interest group or search a topic that interests you.

** This is a good list with menu options: http://www.votesmart.org/issue_group.php

** This is an alphabetical listing of select interest groups: <http://www.twyman-whitney.com/americancitizen/links/lobbies.htm>