

Guided Lesson Notes

Name: _____ Date: _____

Lesson Name: Interest Groups and Lobbyists

Directions: Complete this study guide as you move through the lesson. By taking notes, you are more likely to remember what you are learning. The completed study guide can be used for practice activities and to prepare for quizzes and exams. Be sure to save each study guide so you can access it when you need it.

Essential Vocabulary

As you encounter these government terms in the lesson, enter the meaning and an example (or two) for each. You can even draw a picture. If there are other unfamiliar words you find, enter them in the blank spaces provided.

<i>interest group</i>	<i>lobbyist</i>
<i>policy</i>	

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Agents of Change

Watch the video and answer the questions about interest groups and how they influence public policy in the United States.

Question	Answer
What is the main goal of interest groups, and how does that goal differ from that of political parties?	
How do interest groups use propaganda to influence public opinion and policy? Provide two examples from the video.	
What are political action committees (PACs), and what role do they play in the political process?	
In what ways do lobbyists try to influence lawmakers and the legislative process?	
What are some arguments for and against the influence of interest groups and money in politics?	

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Birds of a Feather

Describe the broad categories of interest groups.

Category	Goal	Example
Economic		
Public		
Religious		
Civil Rights		
Single Issue		

One on One

Read the passage and answer the questions about lobbying and its role in the political process.

Question	Answer
What is lobbying, and how does it help individuals or organizations influence government decisions?	

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Why might a business or interest group choose to hire a lobbyist instead of lobbying on their own?	
In what ways can lobbyists be seen as helpful or controversial in the US political system?	

Life as a Lobbyist

Review who interest groups and lobbyists hope to influence within the American government and how they go about doing it.

	How do they influence?
Congress	
President	
Government Agencies	
The Courts	

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Game Plans

Describe the tactics that lobbyists tend to use in influencing government officials.

Tactic	Example
Control the Game	
Leverage Media	
Create a Following	
Stop the Opposition	
Master the Web	
Gain Access	
Offer a Job	

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Start to Finish

Explain the specific actions taken by lobbyists to support legislation favorable to their clients.

Action	How it helps
Conducting Research	
Suggesting Solutions	
Drafting the Bill	
Management	
Veto-Proofing	

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Big Business

Describe the industries and interest groups that use lobbyists to influence the US government, and how the political changes they have provoked have affected American citizens.

Group	What is their goal?
American Association of Retired Persons (AARP)	
National Rifle Association (NRA)	
Tech Industry	
Defense Industry	

The Bottom Line

How do some industries impact public policy for their own benefit?

Industry	How they impact public policy for their own benefit
Mining Industry	
Agribusiness Industry	

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Big Oil Industry	
Pharma Industry	
Financial Industry	

For Example

Read the passage and answer the questions about the NAACP and its role in shaping civil rights and public policy in the United States.

Question	Answer
What was the original mission of the NAACP when it was founded in 1909?	
What major legal victory did the NAACP help achieve in 1954, and why was it important?	

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In what ways does the NAACP continue to influence government policies today?

How does the NAACP combine national lobbying and grassroots support to push for social reform?