

Interest Group Project

Interest groups play a very important part in American politics. They represent the wishes and interests of everyday citizens like you and I as well as large multinational corporations. Interest groups are effective because they can combine the motivation, energy and financial resources of many. Interest groups perform various functions, but most importantly they attempt to influence government. The purpose of this project is to focus in on several interest groups so we can learn what they are, what they represent and how they operate.

Each group must complete the following:

Complete a short outline form of your information that is due the day of your presentation.

The outline must address all of the following topics.

1) General Information about Group

- What is the key concern or purpose of the group?
- Can you describe the size and give a general description of their membership?
- Can you describe the history of the interest group?
- Also include any other key information you found during your research of the group.

2) What current issues is your group concerned with?

Searching "Google News" will also help you find information on what issue(s) your interest group has been involved with most recently.

- What are some examples of some recent legislation your group supported or opposed?

3) What actions does your group take to try to influence policy and the public agenda? Give

specific examples: (example use of the media, lawsuits (litigation), direct lobbying, public

Information contributions, etc.)

4) Which parts of the government does your group target? (i.e. Executive branch departments and congressional committees)

5) What is the group's political ideology?

Does it favor one political party over the other? If so, does it have a history of supporting certain political candidates?

6) Assess your group

. How effective is it in achieving its agenda? Use specific examples demonstrating their effectiveness or lack thereof.

7) Could you ever see yourself joining this interest group? Why or why not?