

# SOL 9b



## **INFLUENCE OF INDIVIDUALS AND INTEREST GROUPS ON PUBLIC POLICY**

# Vocabulary



- Constituent: The people who a government official represents.
- Respond: To react positively.
- Lobbying: Attempting to influence the decisions of government officials.
- Data: Individual facts, statistics, or items of information.

# Interest Groups



- Elected officials represent their constituents and are supposed to respond to their wishes.
- Citizens can make their wishes known by joining interest groups.
- Interest groups are made up of people who share a particular interest or point of view on a topic.

# Interest Groups



- Interest groups may form around certain industries, like car and oil companies.
- Labor Unions and Professionals (doctors and lawyers) also form interest groups. Some groups can form around particular issues like health care, pollution, or forest preservation.
- All interest groups have **one goal in common**: Influence government officials to make policies favorable to their interests.

# Interest Groups Can Influence Public Policy By.....



- **Identifying Issues:**

- They study issues that are important to their members and draw media attention to the issues in order to influence public opinion in favor of their cause. They also provide data from their studies to help lawmakers draft bills.

- **Making Political Contributions**

- They identify politicians who share their views. They help these politicians get elected by giving money to their campaigns.

- **Lobbying Government Officials**

- They often hire professional lobbyists. Skilled lobbyists know how to get the attention of lawmakers and persuade them to introduce a bill or to vote for or against a bill.

# Individuals Can Influence Public Policy By.....



- **Participating in Politics**
  - Voting, Volunteering to work for a Campaign, Seeking Office (running for offices)
- **Expressing Opinions**
  - Writing letters and emails to public officials, taking part in a peaceful demonstration, lobbying public officials
- **Joining Interest Groups**
  - Giving money to groups that represent one's views, actively working with the interest group

# Class Activity



- We are going to do a Frame as a class.
- This Frame looks different than the ones we have done in the past.
- The Frame will be up on the board and you all will come up and fill it in.
- You will fill out your own copy while we are doing this.
- Keep your notes out! They will help!

Key Topic

Is About...

Main Idea

Main Idea

Essential Details

Essential Details

So What: What is important to understand about this?