

Name \_\_\_\_\_

**Interest Group** \_\_\_\_\_

	Possible Points	Your Points
<p>A. How it tries to influence policy and the public agenda:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 1. What are the issues your group is concerned with? (10 pts.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 2. What are some specific examples of legislation your group supports or opposes? (10 pts.)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 3. What actions does your group take to try to influence policy and the public agenda? Is it involved in litigation? Give details about what it is doing to influence policy Give specific examples: (e.g. use of the media, law suits, direct lobbying, public information contributions, etc.) (10 pts)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> 4. Which parts of the government does your group target, i.e. which executive branch departments and congressional committees? State and local govts? (10 pts.)</p>	40	
<p>B1. Political Efforts – complete this if your group supports one political party over the other and endorses candidates (Do this <i>or</i> B2)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> What is it doing to support its favored candidates? What endorsements has it made? ” Give specific examples.</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Make specific connections between their political ideology, the legislation they support, and the party they support.</p>	20 (10 pts. each)	
<p>B2. Your group in the news – complete this if your group is politically neutral and is not supporting either party or endorsing candidates. Be sure that you have correctly ascertained that your group is not politically involved in supporting candidates or parties. (Do this <i>or</i> B1)</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Find two news articles concerning your group and what it is involved in. Write up summaries of each article. Connect your summaries to the themes that we’ve studied this unit on the tools that interest groups use.</p>	20 (10 pts. each)	
<p>C. Assessment of your group:</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> How effective is your group in accomplishing its goals? What are its strengths and weaknesses?</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> Back up what you say with specific examples demonstrating their effectiveness or lack thereof.</p>	20 (10 pts. each)	
D. Bibliography	10 pts.	
E. Your assignment should use good English in all respects and follow the requirements of good writing.	10 pts.	
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>100</b>	

**Staple this rubric to the front of your paper or lose 5 points.**

# Interest Group Assignment

## Due – Friday April 1st

**Please label the section you're responding to in your final product.**  
**Add footnotes**

1. Pick one of the interest groups listed on your Study Guide. You are free to pick another group if you have a different choice. Just ask or email me to be sure you have made a good choice.
2. Go to that group's web site. I have link on my links page. Do NOT rely solely on the group's site. Also, go to Google and search for information on your group. That will help you find what issues they've been involved in recently. Research the following topics and type up a report (about three pages, double-spaced) covering those topics. This isn't meant to be a thesis-driven, unified essay. You can simply put the topic as a heading and then give the information on that topic. Please label each section. Within each section, break your answer to the individual questions into separate paragraphs. You can give your information in a bullet-points list. Keep a list of sources you use and include them in your final product.

A. What are the issues your group is concerned with? What are some examples of legislation your group supports or opposes? What actions does your group take to try to influence policy and the public agenda? Is it involved in litigation? Give details. Give specific examples: (e.g. use of the media, law suits, direct lobbying, public information contributions, etc.) Which parts of the government does your group target, i.e. which executive branch departments and congressional committees? Does it focus only on the federal government or also state and local governments?

B. Do **either** 1 or 2 depending on which is most appropriate for your group. If your group is not political and does not endorse candidates, do option 2. Otherwise, do option 1.

B. 1. 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? What is it doing to support its favored candidates? What endorsements has it made? Make the connection between their political ideology, the legislation they support, and the party they support. It might help you to Google the name of your group and words like "endorse" or "endorsement." Give specific examples.

OR

B. 2. If you think your group is absolutely neutral, say so. This part of the assignment is only for groups that do not endorse candidates. Many interest groups are neutral. Discuss the issues that your group is concerned with and then, for the points in this section you will do the following. Find and summarize two recent (past six months) news articles relevant to your interest group. You can use <http://news.google.com/> to find such articles. Use the information to show how your group is trying to influence public policy. Make connections in your summary to the topics we've discussed this unit.

C. Assess your group: What are its strengths and weaknesses? How effective is it in achieving its agenda? Back up what you say with specific examples demonstrating their effectiveness or lack thereof.

D. Include footnotes for your sources of information and a bibliography of all the sources you use or lose 10 points. Here is how a website should be cited. Follow this model for History and Social Sciences papers.

"AARP." <http://www.aarp.org/> (accessed 10/26/13).