

Chapter 9

Section 3: Interest Groups at Work

Guiding Question: In what ways do interest groups attempt to influence government and public opinion?

GET STARTED

Lesson Goals:

- ❑ Students will understand how interest groups influence public policy and opinion, using direct and indirect approaches.
- ❑ Students will describe how lobbyists influence the branches of government.

Bellringer Display Transparency 9E, Rating Members of Congress. Have students write the answers to the questions in their notebooks.

Vocabulary Write terms and definitions on flash cards. Have students test each other with the cards.

TEACH

Tell students that in this section they will learn about direct and indirect approaches used by interest groups to influence the branches of government, to inspire grass-roots lobbying, and to influence public opinion and policy. Help students share their findings from the Bellringer and explain the meaning of difficult or unfamiliar words from the Web page. Direct students' attention to the illustrations in this section as a way to preview section content. Then have volunteers read the section aloud.

Ask:

- Why might several lobbyists representing different interests testify before Congress on the same bill? (*The proposed legislation might affect many groups.*)
- Why do lobbyists sometimes take legal action to promote their interests? (*They do so when an issue is not likely to succeed in Congress but may make headway in the courts.*)
- Name two ways lobbyists can work through the courts. (*They can file lawsuits on behalf of their clients and file briefs to support one side of a case being tried.*)

Learning Styles: Interpersonal/Group

Have students think of examples of well-known people appearing in ads or interviews, endorsing a viewpoint or idea. Arrange students in groups of three or four. Have them share the examples they recalled. Ask them to discuss whether or not each celebrity might sway their opinion. Close by asking students to name those people whose opinions they feel they can trust.

Other Strategies

Learning Styles: Logical/Mathematical

ELL/ESL Strategy

Learning Styles: Visual/Spatial

ASSESS AND REMEDIATE

- Assign the Section Assessment questions; grade student responses.

Chapter Resources

Essential Questions Journal

Chapter 9 Outline (All-in-One, pp. 214–216)

Chapter Test B (All-in-One, pp. 246–249)

Other Resources

Reading Comprehension Worksheet

(All-in-One, p. 236)

Extend Activity (All-in-One, p. 240)

Section Quiz B (All-in-One, p. 242)

Audio support is available for this section.

Additional features for Differentiated Instruction can be found throughout the Teacher's Edition.