

Guided Reading Activity

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Public Opinion and Interest Groups

Lesson 1 *Shaping Public Opinion*

Review Questions

Directions: Read the lesson and complete the outline below. Refer to your text to fill in the blanks.

I. Public Opinion and Democracy

- A. Responsiveness to public opinion is important in a _____.
- B. The government is responsive to public opinion but is also influenced by _____ groups, _____ parties, mass _____, and other forces.

II. Political Socialization

- A. Political socialization is the process through which individuals learn their _____ beliefs.
- B. Political socialization begins within the _____.
- C. _____, which train young people in their nation's history and political system, and _____ groups are also part of a person's political socialization.
- D. Various forms of _____, including the Internet, television, newspapers, and movies, play an important role in political socialization.
- E. Other influences on political socialization include personal _____, government leaders, interest groups, and _____ organizations.

III. Political Culture

- A. Key elements of American political culture include a shared belief in liberty and _____, support for the Constitution and the _____, and a commitment to the idea of political equality.
- B. _____ sets the boundaries within which citizens develop and express opinions, and influences how a nation's people view and interpret the world around them.

Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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IV. Political Efficacy

- A. Political _____ directly affects a person's feelings of political efficacy.
- B. _____ refers to a person's belief that he or she can have an impact on the government.

V. The Nature of Public Opinion

- A. _____ refers to the ideas and attitudes that a significant number of citizens hold about government and political issues.
- B. _____ communicate the opinions of many individuals.
- C. To make government officials listen to a particular opinion, it must be held by _____ of people.

Summary and Reflection

Directions: Summarize the main ideas of this lesson by answering the question below.

What role do schools, mass media, interest groups, and religious organizations have in shaping public opinion?
