

# Guided Reading Activity

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## Public Opinion and Interest Groups

### Lesson 3 *Interest Groups and Their Roles*

#### Review Questions

**Directions:** Read each main idea. Use your text to supply the details that support or explain each main idea.

**A. Main Idea:** Interest groups in the United States seek to influence public policy.

1. **Detail:** An \_\_\_\_\_ is a group of people who share common goals and organize to influence government.
2. **Detail:** Interest groups are an important part of the \_\_\_\_\_, or the voluntary associations in a free society.
3. **Detail:** One difference between interest groups and political parties is that \_\_\_\_\_ are usually concerned with very limited issues while \_\_\_\_\_ must appeal to a broad-based membership.
4. **Detail:** Interest groups help bridge the gap between \_\_\_\_\_ and the \_\_\_\_\_.

**B. Main Idea:** People join interest groups for several reasons.

1. **Detail:** Some people join interest groups to protect or promote their \_\_\_\_\_ self-interest.
2. **Detail:** People join interest groups to get their \_\_\_\_\_ translated into policy or into direct action to help others.
3. **Detail:** Some people join interest groups for \_\_\_\_\_ reasons, which are important in promoting a group unity.

## Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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**C. Main Idea:** There are a wide variety of interest groups in the United States.

1. **Detail:** The AFL-CIO, NFU, and the U.S. Chamber of Commerce are examples of \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups.
2. **Detail:** Interest groups that focus on issues such as environmental concerns, consumer protection, or government reform are called \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups.
3. **Detail:** Interest groups such as NAACP, NOW, and LULAC are examples of \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups.
4. **Detail:** Some interest groups such as the NRA are \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups, while \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups promote broad policies based on core beliefs.
5. **Detail:** \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups may focus on specific religious traditions, broader issues, or even keeping religious bias out of public policy discussions.
6. **Detail:** Interest groups also include \_\_\_\_\_ associations such as the ABA or AMA, while workers and leaders in American government may form \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups.

### Summary and Reflection

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

Describe an interest group that might be formed as a result of a toxic chemical spill on a freeway near a major city. What would be the goals of this interest group, what would be some key reasons people would join, and into which of the types of interest groups described in this lesson would this group fall?

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