

# Guided Reading Activity

networks

## Public Opinion and Interest Groups

### Lesson 4 *Affecting Public Policy*

#### Review Questions

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

##### I. Lobbying

- A. People who are paid representatives of interest groups are \_\_\_\_\_ lobbyists, while public advocacy efforts carried out by the general public are called \_\_\_\_\_ lobbying.
- B. Lobbyists make their case by providing useful \_\_\_\_\_ to government officials and their staff and by \_\_\_\_\_ in congressional hearings.
- C. Lobbyists and interest groups sometimes help draft \_\_\_\_\_ or submit comments on proposed federal \_\_\_\_\_ and rules.
- D. Understanding the \_\_\_\_\_ and how it works is vital for a lobbyist to be successful and effective.

##### II. Interest Groups Seek Support

- A. Interest groups use the \_\_\_\_\_, including television, radio, and the Internet, to inform the public and to create support for their views.
- B. Many interest groups encourage letter-writing or e-mail \_\_\_\_\_ for their membership to demonstrate support for or against a policy.
- C. The power of any interest group is \_\_\_\_\_ in part because interest groups compete for power and influence.
- D. \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups or \_\_\_\_\_ interest groups that unite people who have narrower aims have been most effective in shaping policy.

## Guided Reading Activity *cont.*

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#### III. The Rise of Political Action Committees

- A. In 1974, Congress passed new laws \_\_\_\_\_ donations to federal candidates.
- B. These new laws, and their donation \_\_\_\_\_, led to the formation of \_\_\_\_\_.
- C. While there are limits on PAC \_\_\_\_\_ donations to a candidate, there are no limits on \_\_\_\_\_ donations.
- D. Political influence groups focused on advocating an issue are often called \_\_\_\_\_ for the part of the tax code giving them an exemption.
- E. A key difference between PACs and \_\_\_\_\_ is that PACs are tied to a particular candidate while \_\_\_\_\_ do not coordinate with candidates.
- F. Because SuperPACs are independent of specific candidates, they are allowed to receive \_\_\_\_\_ donations and to spend \_\_\_\_\_ sums.

#### IV. Strategies of PACs

- A. PACs attempt to gain \_\_\_\_\_ to lawmakers through campaign contributions.
- B. PACs also spend money to influence \_\_\_\_\_ outcomes.

#### Summary and Reflection

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

What methods are used by special interest groups, including PACs and SuperPACs, to influence public policy, elected officials, and public opinion?

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