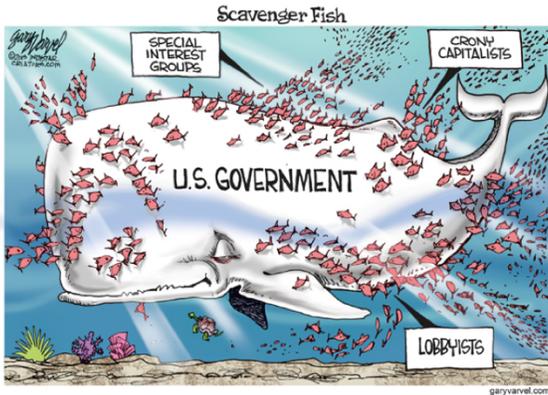


Unit 5 POLITICAL PARTICIPATION
5.6 Interest Groups Influencing Policy Making

Room 2B HIVE
 mrreview.org



ESSENTIALS

Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies. In addition to working within party coalitions, interest groups exert influence through long standing relationships with bureaucratic agencies, Congressional committees, and other interest groups; such relationships are described as “iron triangles” and issue networks and they help interest groups exert influence across political party coalitions.

Interest group influence may be impacted by: Inequality of resources/Unequal access to decision makers/“Free rider” problem

1. What is the underlying idea of this cartoon? [Write your response like a claim statement]

2. Make an argument FOR and AGAINST lobbyists and special interest groups. What would our democracy be like without them?
 - A. Interest groups may represent very specific or more general interests, and can educate voters and office holders, draft legislation, and mobilize membership to apply pressure on and work with legislators and government agencies.
 - B. In addition to working within party coalitions, interest groups exert influence through long standing relationships with bureaucratic agencies, Congressional committees, and other interest groups; such relationships are described as “iron triangles” and issue networks and they help interest groups exert influence across political party coalitions.

Name of Interest Group	Examples of functions/techniques used
Example from business groups	
Example from single-issue groups	
Another example...	

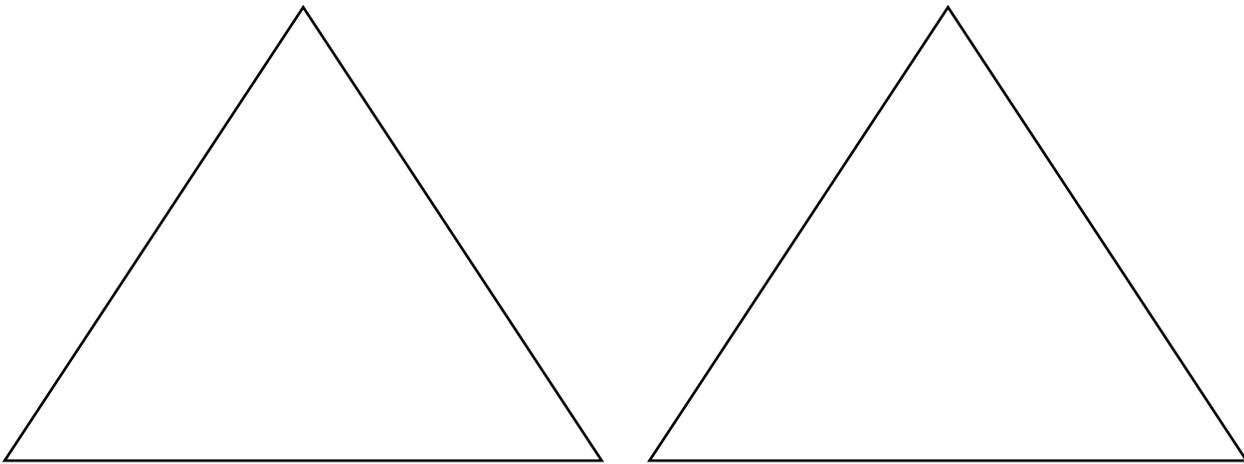
DEFINE “Free rider.” Find an authoritative source that has researched the issue of “free riders.” What does this mean to our democracy?

Make a list of the top five (5) interest groups by total expenditures: (any conclusions?)

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.

IRON TRIANGLES

Research two iron triangles that operate in our current policy-making machine. Plug in the details. *Should include: Congressional committee; Executive agency; Interest Group ...Issue?*



QUANTITATIVE ANALYSIS

% of adults who say it is _____ important for companies and organizations to make public statements about political or social issues

	NOT AT ALL	NOT TOO	SOMEWHAT	VERY
US ADULTS	25	23	32	19
REPUBLICANS	42	27	22	9
DEMOCRATS	10	19	43	28
WHITE	32	26	29	13
BLACK	10	15	37	38

Pew Research

Use the information graphic to answer the questions.

- A. Identify a demographic whose majority say organizations should make public statements about social issue.
- B. Describe a similarity or difference between Democrats and Republicans, and draw a conclusion that explains the similarity or difference.
- C. Explain how interest groups are protected by constitutional provisions.