

Interest Groups

Name: _____

****TEACHER GUIDE****



Vocabulary. Match the term to the correct definition.

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| <u>B</u> 1. interest | A) favoring one view or another |
| <u>C</u> 2. advocate | B) attention paid to something |
| <u>G</u> 3. political action committee | C) to promote or support |
| <u>H</u> 4. interest group | D) collection of opinions or attitudes |
| <u>A</u> 5. bias | E) represent interest groups and communicate with officials |
| <u>F</u> 6. campaign financing | F) how money is earned to pay for political campaigns |
| <u>E</u> 7. lobbyist | G) organizations that help interest groups raise money for campaigns |
| <u>D</u> 8. public opinion | H) a group of people who work to influence government about a set of issues |

How Do You Lobby? Read each interest group lobby activity and decide if it is an example of informing (I), donating money (D), or endorsing a candidate running for office (E).

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| <u>E</u> 9. Representatives interview a candidate to see if he or she will support the group's position on nuclear plants. If so, the group will back this candidate. | <u>I</u> 12. Lobbyists visit with members of Congress and local officials and share their reasons for supporting or opposing an upcoming bill. |
| <u>I</u> 10. Volunteers from a teen health interest group go into schools and educate students about the dangers of underage drinking. | <u>D</u> 13. Once a candidate has been endorsed, members of an interest group help raise donations to help the candidate's campaign. |
| <u>E</u> 11. An interest group runs an ad that supports a candidate running for office. | <u>I</u> 14. A group runs TV and radio ads about an issue in order to raise public concern and spur the public to action. |

Just the Facts? Look at how two different interest groups address the same question. Draw a line matching each group to the answer it would give.

Question: Do guns in the home increase or decrease security in the home?

The Groups

The Answers

The National Rifle Association (NRA) works to preserve law-abiding citizens' right to buy, have, and use firearms for legitimate purposes.



The Brady Campaign works to prevent gun violence. It was responsible for passing the Brady Bill in 1993, which required a five-day waiting period and a background check before someone can buy a handgun.



Guns in the home are 22 times more likely to be used in a criminal, unintentional, or suicide-related shooting than in self-defense. When someone is home, a gun is used for protection in less than 2% of home invasion crimes.

Guns are used for protection 2.5 million times each year. Guns are used three to five times more often to stop crimes than to commit them.