

Wilson 16 Chapter 11 Assignment

1. What is an interest group?
2. Why should interest groups focus on affecting public policy? What's in it for them?
3. What factors contribute to the number and range of interest groups?
4. Why were PACs created?
5. How do lobbyists reflect the principle of engaging in free speech?
6. Why is lobbying anything, but free?
7. Explain the four factors that lead to interest group formation.
8. How are institutional interest groups different from membership interest groups?
9. Why is the US Chamber of Commerce such a beast when it comes to lobbying?
10. Why should regulatory agencies and members of congress care what the US Chamber of Commerce thinks about regulations and politics?
11. Define political efficacy.
12. How will *Janus v. American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees Council 31* exacerbate the free rider problem if/when Janus wins?
13. How does the free rider problem make the work of public interest groups harder?
14. How do solidary incentives get people to join the League of Women Voters and the Rotary Club?
15. How do the material incentives secured by the AARP help propel its membership?
16. What characteristics does the AARP have that make it a force to be reckoned with when it comes to lobbying? Don't forget their demographic advantage in elections.
17. How does the National Right to Life Committee, EMILY's List, and Sierra Club represent people joining for purposive reasons?
18. What constitutes a public-interest lobby?
19. How do think tanks affect the public policy process?
20. Compare and contrast the Center for American Progress and the Cato Institute.
21. Why should Black Lives Matter and the #Metoo be concerned about their likely longevity?
22. Why do public-interest lobbies thrive when governmental power is in the hands of their political enemies?
23. Why are interest groups unlikely to represent the beliefs of the great masses of America?
24. What characteristics do the masses not have that leads to membership proclivity?
25. How has the Trump administration and Republican congress undermined the Dodd-Frank Act of 2010?
26. Why is there an upper class bias to interest group activity?
27. How does fragmentation hurt interest groups?
28. What are these so-called "militant actions" that NOW and NARAL have engaged in?
29. In what way would the demise of unions leave business institutional interests in position to enforce no-compete clauses, forced arbitration clauses, and questionable work-safety environments?
30. What are the foundation grants that many interest groups use to function?
31. What is the primary function of an interest group?
32. What would be the consequence to a group that is known not to provide this resource listed in #31?
33. What type of group is the clear 800 pound gorilla in the lobbying field?
34. Given what is said about typical lobbying efforts, how is the lobbying that is directed against our government the very factions the founding fathers feared?
35. How is lobbying an act of engaging in freedom of speech?
36. How does lobbying represent the shady back room deals typically assigned to public policy making throughout our history?
37. How do lobbyists provide political cues for legislators?
38. How does the NRA, Environmental Defense Fund, and other interest groups use ratings to influence legislators and inform their memberships about policies and politicians?

39. Why are earmarks controversial?
40. How does Jim Costa securing \$4 billion for California high speed rail with initial building to be in the valley represent the idea of an earmark?
41. Earmarks are both bad and good. Explain.
42. Compare and contrast the insider and outsider strategy?
43. How does grassroots lobbying work? How is it generated?
44. How is much of the grassroots lobbying really “astroturf?”
45. What are the primary differences between PACs and Super PACs?
46. What has made the money coming from interest groups largely to be fairly inconsequential?
47. How did Charles Rangel engage in extortion that is likely happening with great frequency among members of congress and interest groups?
48. Why would it be political suicide to only give to the majority party members in congress?
49. If PAC contributions aren’t enough to “buy” a member of congress, what do their contributions get them?
50. What factors make it unlikely that a PAC donation will cause a donation recipient to do something other than what they would have done in the first place? Think subsidy to friendlies.
51. The revolving door is often said to represent the buying access to a former official’s rolodex. Explain. Obviously look up rolodex which are obsolete.
52. How does the revolving door represent the 1st Amendment right to association while simultaneously threatening to undermine democracy?
53. Why are the NRA and AARP effective interest groups?
54. What does it mean to be a pluralistic system?
55. What requirements must lobbyists meet?
56. Why is it important to insulate members of congress from gifts, sponsored trips, and other perks from lobbying firms?
57. Why would the Trump administration propose revoking the restriction that keeps churches from losing their tax exempt status for political advocacy?