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**Special Interest Groups and Lobbyists**

 **If you visit Washington, D.C., or any state capital, it is likely that you will see the lobbies of legislatures buzzing with well-dressed men and women talking to senators and representatives. Many of these people are lobbyists. *A lobbyist* is a person who tries to get legislators to vote a certain way. Many lobbyists work for special interest groups, organizations made up of people who share common goals and attempt to get legislation passed in their favor.**

 **Lobbyists represent many different groups. Businesses and civic organizations use lobbyists to voice their views. So, do doctors, teachers, lawyers, and people in many other professions. Groups for or against important issues, such as gun control, women’s rights, or the preservation of natural resources, may also use lobbyists.**

 **Lobbyists provide special interest groups with a way to bring their views to the attention of lawmakers. To ensure that lobbyists use prober conduct to influence legislators, the Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 was created. This act requires lobbyists who function at the federal level to register with the government and report their actives.**

 **Special interest groups may use a number of methods to win the votes of lawmakers. These methods include hiring lobbyists to meet with senators and representatives, writing letters, and making contributions to the campaign funds of legislators they wish to influence.**

**1. What is the goal of lobbyists?**

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**2. Explain why people who represent special interest groups received the name *lobbyist.***

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**3. What are three methods special interest groups might use to win favorable votes from**

 **legislators?**

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**4. What did Regulation of Lobbying Act of 1946 require lobbyists to do?**

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**5. Why might lobbyists ague that further regulation of their activates could infringe on their**

 **constitutional right to free speech as well as their right to petition the government to solve**

 **problems?**

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**How Do Citizens Influence Congress?**

**6. How do interest groups bridge the gap between citizens and the government?**

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**7. How do interest groups differ in their power?**

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**8. List 3 reasons and example fro each that people belong to interest groups.**

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**9. What are the most effective techniques used by interest groups?**

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**10. List tow experiences lobbyists might have that make their job easier.**

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