**UNIT 6 PEOPLE AND POLITICS**

**8.6.1  Describe how individuals influence public policy.  (CE.9b) p. 590-594**

* participating in politics\*
* lobbying\*
* voting\*
* demonstrating\*
* campaigning\*
* writing letters\*
* expressing opinions\*
* joining interest groups\*
* seeking public office\*

**8.6.2  Describe ways interest groups influence public policy.  (CE.9b) p. 627-629**

* identifying issues\*
* making political contributions\*
* lobbying government officials\*
* representing different viewpoints\*
* publicizing issues\*

**8.6.3  Examine the influence of the media on public opinion and public policy.  (CE.9a) p. 622-629**

* focusing public attention on selected issues\*
* offering a forum in which opposing viewpoints are communicated\*
* holding government officials accountable to the public\*
* providing the opportunity for government officials to use the media to communicate with the public\*

**8.6.4 Identify and describe strategies for evaluating campaign information. (CE.5c) p. 622-629**

* separating fact from opinion\*
* detecting bias\*
* evaluating sources\*
* identifying propaganda\*

**8.6.5 Describe the purpose and functions of political parties in the United States.  (CE.5a) p. 590-594**

* recruiting and nominating candidates\*
* educating the electorate about campaign issues\*
* helping candidates win elections\*
* monitoring actions of office holders\*
* raising money for campaigns

8**.6.6  Describe the similarities and differences between the two major political parties.  (CE.5b) p. 598-599**

* **similarities**- organize to win elections\*  
  - influence public policies\*  
  - reflect both liberal and conservative views\*  
  - define themselves in a way that wins majority support by appealing to the political center\*
* **differences**- stated in a party’s platform and reflected in campaigns\*

**8.6.7 Assess the advantages and disadvantages of the two-party system.  (CE.5f) p. 595-603**

* political stability
* less opportunity to represent minority opinions
* continuity in government
* requirement for a majority vote in the electoral college\*

**8.6.8  Explain the reasons for the formation of third parties in American politics.  (CE.5b) p. 596-599**

* failure of major parties to address popular causes and issues
* introduce new ideas or press for a particular issue\*
* often revolve around a political personality\* (Theodore Roosevelt)

**8.6.9  Describe the processes involved in running for public office. P. 605-610**

* recruitment
* political campaigns
* nomination
* caucuses
* primary elections
* conventions\*

**8.6.10  Analyze the role of the media in political campaigns.  (CE.5c ) P. 622-627**

* identifying candidates\*
* emphasizing issues\*
* writing editorials\*
* political commentaries\*
* broadcasting differing points of view\*
* public opinion polls
* televised debates
* propaganda
* political cartoons\*
* endorsing candidates

**8.6.11  Examine the role of finances in political campaigns.  (CE.5d) P. 622-629**

* **rising campaign costs** - require candidates to conduct extensive fund raising activities\*  
   - limit opportunities to run for public office\*  
   - give advantage to wealthy individuals who run for office\*  
   - encourage the development of PACs (Political Action Committee)\*  
   - give issue-oriented special interest groups increased influence\*
* **campaign finance reform** - rising campaign costs have led to efforts to reform campaign finance laws\*  
   - limits exist on the amount individuals may contribute to political candidates and campaigns\*

**8.6.12  Describe the procedures for voter registration in Virginia.  (CE.5e) P. 616-621**

* qualifications to register to vote in Virginia\*- citizen of the U.S.\*  
   - resident of Virginia and precinct\*  
   - 18 years of age by day of general election\*
* how to register to vote in Virginia- in person at the registrar’s office, at the DMV, or other designated sites  
   - application by mail\*  
   - registration is closed 29 days before election\*

**8.6.13  Assess factors that influence voter participation. (CE.5e) P. P. 621**

* **factors in predicting which citizens will vote\*** - education\*  
   - age\*  
   - income\*
* **why citizens fail to vote\*-**

-lack of interest\*  
 - failure to register\*  
 - more people vote in national elections than the state elections\*-

-every vote is important\*  
 - greater percentage of voters in presidential election\*