Interest Groups - Group Project

Interest groups play a very important part in American politics. They represent the wishes and interests of everyday citizens like you and me as well as large multi national corporations. Interest groups are effective because they can combine the motivation, energy and financial resources of many.

Interest groups perform various functions but most importantly they attempt to influence government. The purpose of this project is to focus in on several interest groups so we can learn what they are, what they represent and how they operate.

**1. Complete a Google Slides or PowerPoint Presentation**

***The presentation must answer all of the following questions:***

What is your interest group?

Where is the interest group based?

Who is the current President of the group?

When, where and why was it founded? Who founded it?

What is the purpose, issue of your interest group?

How many members does your interest group have?

What does the interest group do for its members (member services)?

What issues does it support? How does it justify (defend) that position?

What issues does it oppose? How does it justify (defend) that position?

What legislation has it supported and opposed in recent years?

What presidential candidates has it endorsed, if any?

What presidential candidates has it donated money to? How much?

Has the interest group backed anyone in the New York Senatorial race? If so have they donated money and how much?

**2. Prepare and deliver a 8-12 minute presentation on your interest group.**

***In your presentation you must:***

Explain to the class the answers to all of the questions in the list above.

Be prepared to answer questions.

Give the class your opinion about this group and their positions.

When you do your presentation you may not read straight from the Google Slides or PowerPoint. You can have notes with you but you must not rely on them totally. Everyone in the group must present an equal portion of the presentation.

**3. Provide a handout for the class with facts and information about the interest group. This should be short and concise.**

**4. The presentation and your paper will be graded based upon the breakdown is as follows:**

Google Slides or PowerPoint Presentation ‑ 50 Points Total

50 Points = Teacher graded

Presentation ‑ 25 Points Total

25 Points = Teacher graded

Handout - 25 Points Total

25 Points = Teacher graded