



# Influencing the Government Interest Group Matching Activity

## TEACHER INSTRUCTIONS

### Benchmark

SS.7.C.2.10: Examine the impact of media, individuals, and interest groups on monitoring and influencing government.

### Activity

Students will match various interest groups with the candidate that they would most likely support and the proposed bill the interest group would be most likely to focus on. Students will also decide whether the interest group would support or oppose the proposed bill.

### Materials

- \* Interest Group Matching Activity Student Handout
- \* Candidate Cut Outs Handout - make enough copies for each student. Cut out each box before the start of the activity and create 'card piles' of the candidates and bills for each student.
- \* Scissors
- \* Glue stick

### Instructions



1. Review benchmark SS.7.C.2.10 with the class and explain to students that by the end of class they should be able to explain how interest groups have an impact on the actions, behaviors, or opinions of the government.
2. Handout the Interest Group Matching Activity Student Handout and give each student a 'card pile' with all of the candidate and bill cards.
3. Read the directions on the handout as a whole class.
4. Provide students 10-15 minutes to work individually, or with a partner, to read each interest group description and match them with the candidate and bill that the interest group would be most interested in. Have students read each proposed bill closely and decide if the interest group would support or oppose it.
5. Circulate and monitor student work and discussions.
6. Close the activity by having the class come back together and review their answers. Instruct students to mark their worksheets and make corrections as needed.



Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

### Interest Group Matching Activity

**Directions:** Match each candidate to the interest group that would likely endorse them and the proposed bill they would be most interested in and paste them in the boxes provided. Then, determine whether the interest group would support or be against the proposed bill.

Interest Group	Candidate & Proposed Bill
<p><b>Gun Owners of America (GOA)</b> is a non-profit lobbying organization formed in 1975 to preserve and defend the Second Amendment rights of gun owners. GOA sees firearms ownership as a freedom issue.</p> 	<p>*PASTE CANDIDATE HERE*</p>
<p>This candidate would most likely</p> <p><b>SUPPORT / OPPOSE</b></p> <p>this bill.</p> <p>(Circle the best answer)</p>	<p>*PASTE BILL HERE*</p>
Interest Group	Candidate & Proposed Bill
<p>The <b>National Education Association (NEA)</b> is an interest group whose goal is to protect teacher rights and build great public schools for every student. The NEA believes that all students have the right to a quality public education regardless of family income or place of residence.</p> 	<p>*PASTE CANDIDATE HERE*</p>
<p>This candidate would most likely</p> <p><b>SUPPORT / OPPOSE</b></p> <p>this bill.</p> <p>(Circle the best answer)</p>	<p>*PASTE BILL HERE*</p>

Interest Group	Candidate & Proposed Bill
<p>The <b>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</b> is a non-profit organization that fights for constitutional freedoms. They work in courts, legislatures, and communities to preserve individual rights and liberties.</p> 	<p>*PASTE CANDIDATE HERE*</p>
<p>This candidate would most likely</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUPPORT / OPPOSE</b></p> <p>this bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Circle the best answer)</p>	<p>*PASTE BILL HERE*</p>
Interest Group	Candidate & Proposed Bill
<p><b>Greenpeace</b> is an international organization that uses peaceful protest and creative communication to work on behalf of the environment. They work to promote solutions that are essential to a green and peaceful future.</p> 	<p>*PASTE CANDIDATE HERE*</p>
<p>This candidate would most likely</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><b>SUPPORT / OPPOSE</b></p> <p>this bill.</p> <p style="text-align: center;">(Circle the best answer)</p>	<p>*PASTE BILL HERE*</p>

## Interest Group Matching Activity Candidate Cut-Outs



Caleb is a lawyer running for U.S. Senator. He is focused on strengthening the environmental standards that protect the air we breathe and the water we drink.



*-“Why not have clean air and clean water for all Americans?”*

Molly is a teacher and activist who is running for a seat in the U.S. House of Representatives. She supports smaller class sizes, more school counselors, better pay for teachers, and expanded early childhood education.



*-“Children deserve an excellent education from cradle to career.”*

Sanjay is an activist who is running for president. He has written, sponsored, and passed legislation advancing women's rights, affirmative action, same-sex marriage, and single-payer healthcare.



*-“MLK's dream still demands work to do, after 50 years.”*

Sierra is running for the U.S. Senate. She is a former Army lieutenant who believes that owning firearms is a fundamental right in our Constitution and needs to be protected.



*-“I've got a proven record fighting to defend the Second Amendment.”*

## Proposed Bill Cut-Outs



This bill would allow classroom teachers to carry firearms in the classroom in order to increase armed protection in schools. Teachers would need to pass a 144-hour training course before they could be armed.

This bill would make it illegal for an employer to pay unequal wages to men and women who perform a job that requires equal skill, effort, and responsibility.

This bill would forbid the local government from banning the use of single-use plastic bags, plastic cups, straws and other items.

This bill would cut funding to schools. It would eliminate more than two dozen programs that help public schools, including teacher development, academic support and enrichment, and after-school activities.