



Engaged Citizens: SS.7.C.2.13
Examining Multiple Perspectives
VIDEO SCRIPT VIDEO #1



Groups That Influence Public Perspectives Video #1

1. In this video, we are going to explore multiple perspectives. These are the numerous, different, sometimes competing in which people think about public and current issues. These might be politics, education, sports, the military, the Constitution, and everything else that impacts our daily life. Having multiple perspectives on public and current issues means that we won't agree on everything, so that's one reason we have the First Amendment. And let's begin our discussion of multiple perspectives by thinking about that First Amendment.
2. Now, the First Amendment of the Constitution's Bill of Rights contains five freedoms. You might have learned about these already, but just in case, they are: freedom of religion, freedom of speech, freedom of the press, freedom to peaceably assemble and freedom to petition the government.
3. The First Amendment gives individuals and groups the right to express their political views on issues through speech, press, peaceable assembly and petitioning the government.
4. How does this affect the "public" - you, me and all of us living together in the United States? What is the impact of living in a country where people can openly share their perspectives on government issues and officials?
5. After watching this video, you will be able to:
 - o Identify groups that can influence public perspectives,

But there's lots to learn about multiple perspectives, so be sure to watch the other videos in this module to examine how multiple perspectives can impact participation in the political process and to apply your understanding to some scenarios. So let's dive in; we have a lot to cover.

6. So let's begin with some important vocabulary that reflects the groups that influence the public's perspectives on issues. And we start with interest groups or special interest groups.

Interest groups - These are groups of people who are concerned with a particular public or current issue and who try to influence government officials to act in support of their issue. These are groups like the AARP, the American Medical Association, or the NAACP.

7. Political parties - are organizations that try to get political power by electing members of the party to public office so that their ideas can become laws or policies. Examples of political parties are: the Democratic Party, the Republican Party or even the Libertarian Party.

8. Individuals – are people, like you and me that have opinions on the government and on issues, and, for citizens over the age of 18, are people that can vote to help express those opinions.

9. Individuals, political parties, and interest groups often have different perspectives on the government. You might even say they have multiple perspectives. These groups and individuals can try to influence the public's perspective on issues in a number of different ways.

10. Political parties and interest groups will support candidates running for office, and certain perspectives on issues, by running campaign ads, literature and social media content that let people know where they stand on candidates. Now keep in mind that interest groups and political parties are not the same thing. Interest groups will often support a political party if the political party shares their perspective on a current or political issue, but they aren't the same as a political party.

11. Just like political parties and interest groups, individuals also support candidates running for office based on their perspective on issues, by volunteering for a candidate's campaign, through social media and, of course, voting.

12. And they'll probably base their decision on their perspective on issues.

13. Individuals, interest groups, and political parties can also make their perspective known about government activities. Individuals in Congress will publicly advocate for a bill in order to get more support. Interest groups can create public service announcements against a bill or executive action, or for them, in order to raise awareness. There are just so many different ways to share our multiple perspectives.

14. Let's Check In. Try to answer the following in your own words: Describe some ways in which individuals, interest groups, and political parties can make their multiple perspectives known.

15. ANSWER TO QUESTION

16. Let's recap what we've learned so far. Interest groups, political parties, and individuals all have multiple perspectives on issues around government. And there are many different ways to express these multiple perspectives. Some of these different ways include supporting issues and candidates for office through campaign ads, literature, working, volunteering, and social media. Publicly supporting or opposing a bill or action. And voting. But what makes this possible? What allows us to express our multiple perspectives?

17. So what allows these interest groups, political parties, and individuals to share and talk about their multiple perspectives on a current or public issue? That good old First Amendment we started our video talking about!

18. The First Amendment allows anyone to write a letter to their senator about an issue, which would be freedom of speech. Print an article critical of a policy decision about an issue, which would be freedom of the press. Participate in a protest march about an issue, which would be peaceable assembly. Or gather signatures about an issue to send to a political leader, which would be petitioning the government. Even religion sometimes influences our multiple perspectives. Remember that without the First Amendment, our ability to share multiple perspectives on current and public issues might not exist.

19. **Let's check in. What are some different ways the First Amendment allows us to share multiple perspectives?**

20. ANSWER TO QUESTION

21. So multiple perspectives shape how we participate in the political process. Interest groups, political parties, and individuals all can share their perspectives as a result of the First Amendment. But hey, how do we participate in that political process?

22. In order to answer that question, and get some practice with scenarios, be sure to watch the second video in this module on how multiple perspectives impact the ways in which we participate in that political process.