



Engaged Citizens: SS.7.C.2.13
Examining Multiple Perspectives
VIDEO SCRIPT VIDEO #2



Participation in the Political Process Video #2

1. So this is our second video on multiple perspectives as we consider how multiple perspectives impact the political process. But remember that multiple perspectives is the numerous different, sometimes competing, ways in which people think about public and current issues.
 2. And remember it's our First Amendment which allows us to share and discuss and have our multiple perspectives. 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.
 3. Now if you watched video one, you identified groups that can influence public perspectives. In this video, we'll
 - o Examine how multiple perspectives can impact participation in the political process
- Be sure to watch video 3 to use scenarios to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups.
4. Now as we learned in video 1, individuals, interest groups, and political parties make their perspectives known about public issues and government activities to try to convince people of the rightness of their perspective.
 5. So as you may have guessed from watching the first video, and so far in this one, the United States has a society where we all have different perspectives. So the question to consider is. how does the existence of multiple perspectives on issues impact participation in the political process?
 6. Oftentimes, issues that the government, the local community or even your neighborhood deal with and are looking to solve are very complex and difficult.
 7. This means that there isn't a simple solution to solve the problem or issues and many different factors need to be thought through in order to find a solution. These complex problems lead to multiple perspectives from everybody involved in trying to deal with the issue.
 8. The people who are trying to address the issue might change, depending on the issue. When the issue is one that the federal government is trying to solve, national interest groups and members of Congress, for example, may make their perspective known in order to impact the political process.

9. If the issue is one that your local government is trying to solve, different city departments, the city council and individuals living in your community may share their thoughts, their perspectives, to help find a solution that meets their local needs.

10. So let's look at some of the specific ways each of the groups we learned about earlier (individuals, interest groups, and political parties) can impact the political process.

11. Individuals can work on their own or join interest groups or a political party to share their perspectives on the government and government officials.

12. We can't forget one of the most important ways individuals can show their perspective, voting! Voting rights give individuals the chance to express their perspectives by choosing one candidate or public policy over another. It becomes obvious what you support when you vote for it.

13. Interest groups can work with members of Congress or with other elected legislators to get laws passed. This is usually referred to as lobbying. Interest groups also educate members of their group on key issues they want them to support. Through lobbying, making campaign contributions, and getting their message out to influence public opinion, different interest groups reflect multiple perspectives through their participation in the political process as they give input on issues, candidates, and ideas.

14. Perhaps not surprisingly, political parties reflect multiple perspectives in the political process. Remember that a political party is a group of citizens with similar views on public issues who work together to elect candidates who represent their views. Competing political parties give voters a choice among candidates and ideas.

15. So why do individuals vote? Why do interest groups lobby? Why do political parties try to elect candidates that share their views on issues? Why do they do all these things? Because they want their perspectives on candidates and issues are being heard!

16. Voting shapes participation in and impacts the political process by rewarding or punishing candidates for their position on an issue. And lobbying shapes participation in the political process and impacts it by helping leaders and the public decide on what position to take on an issue. Electing candidates shapes participation in and impacts the political process by bringing leaders to power that reflects that party and may or may not be supported by lots of people. All of these different ways are ways that multiple perspectives shape participation in and impact the political process.

17. Let's Check In. Try to answer the following in your own words: How does the existence of multiple perspectives shape participation in and impact the political process?

18. ANSWER TO QUESTION

19. Let's recap what we've learned so far. Remember that issues can be difficult and complex. Groups dealing with the issue may change depending on if it is a local or national issue. Individuals can join an interest group or political party to share their perspective. And voting is one of the most important ways an individual can share their perspective. Remember as well that interest groups will lobby legislators to get their perspectives into law. And competing political parties give voters a choice among perspectives on candidates and issues.

20. So as we can probably see, multiple perspectives on current and public issues shape how we participate in the political process. Interest groups, political parties, and individuals have their perspectives on issues and have to understand them to try and agree.

21. Now if you haven't already, make sure you watch the first video in this module to be able to identify groups that influence public perspectives and the third video to understand the reaction or perspectives of different groups.