interest groups icivics

interest groups icivics is a topic that uncovers the vital role of interest groups in shaping American democracy, as explored through the educational platform iCivics. This article provides an in-depth look at the definition, functions, and impact of interest groups, especially as presented in the iCivics curriculum. Readers will discover the types of interest groups, their strategies for influencing government policy, and how iCivics uses interactive resources to teach students about civic engagement. Whether you are a student, educator, or a curious citizen, this comprehensive guide will help you understand how interest groups operate within the United States political system, the challenges they face, and their significance in a healthy democracy. The article covers major concepts, historical context, and practical applications, giving you the knowledge to navigate and discuss the role of interest groups with confidence and clarity.

- Understanding Interest Groups in the Context of iCivics
- Types of Interest Groups and Their Functions
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- Benefits and Criticisms of Interest Groups
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- Interest Groups and Civic Engagement

Understanding Interest Groups in the Context of iCivics

Interest groups are organizations formed by individuals who share common interests, objectives, or causes. Their primary purpose is to influence public policy and government actions in favor of their members' concerns. In the iCivics framework, interest groups are introduced as essential players in the democratic process. iCivics emphasizes the importance of understanding how these groups work, the legal frameworks that govern them, and their role in representing diverse viewpoints. The curriculum offers interactive lessons and games that help students grasp the complexity of interest groups, making civic education both engaging and practical. Through iCivics, learners gain insights into the tactics, strategies, and impact of interest groups on

Types of Interest Groups and Their Functions

Economic Interest Groups

Economic interest groups focus on promoting the financial well-being of their members. These organizations represent business sectors, labor unions, professional associations, and agricultural interests. Their main functions include lobbying for favorable legislation, negotiating with policymakers, and advocating for economic policies that benefit their constituents. Economic interest groups are prominent in influencing tax laws, labor regulations, and trade policies.

Public Interest Groups

Public interest groups advocate for causes that benefit the broader society, rather than specific individuals or organizations. These groups may campaign for environmental protection, consumer rights, government transparency, or public health. Their efforts typically center on raising awareness, mobilizing public support, and lobbying legislators to enact policies that serve the common good.

Governmental Interest Groups

Governmental interest groups represent the interests of local, state, or foreign governments. They engage in advocacy at the federal level to secure funding, influence legislation, or promote cooperation between governmental entities. These groups play a crucial role in federalism and intergovernmental relations within the United States.

Ideological Interest Groups

Ideological interest groups are driven by specific political, religious, or philosophical beliefs. Their functions include shaping public opinion, supporting candidates aligned with their ideologies, and lobbying for legislation that reflects their values. These groups are influential in debates on social issues, civil rights, and constitutional amendments.

- Economic Interest Groups
- Public Interest Groups
- Governmental Interest Groups

- Ideological Interest Groups
- Single-Issue Interest Groups

How Interest Groups Influence Government Policy

Lobbying Strategies

Interest groups often employ lobbying as a primary strategy to influence government policy. Lobbyists work directly with lawmakers, providing information, policy analysis, and persuasive arguments to support their group's positions. They may also draft legislation, organize meetings, and participate in committee hearings. Effective lobbying requires expertise in legal and political frameworks and strong relationships with policymakers.

Grassroots Mobilization

Grassroots mobilization involves rallying the general public to support an interest group's cause. By organizing protests, letter-writing campaigns, petitions, and social media activism, interest groups generate public pressure on elected officials to act in their favor. Grassroots efforts are particularly effective when large numbers of citizens participate, demonstrating widespread support for the group's objectives.

Political Action Committees (PACs)

Interest groups utilize Political Action Committees to raise and distribute funds to support candidates who align with their policy goals. PACs play a significant role in election campaigns, helping interest groups gain political influence and visibility. By contributing to candidates, PACs ensure that the group's interests are represented at various levels of government.

Interest Groups in iCivics Educational Resources

Interactive Games and Simulations

iCivics offers a range of interactive games and simulations designed to teach students about the role of interest groups in democracy. For example, the game "Interest Groups" challenges players to build support for their cause

through lobbying, media outreach, and coalition-building. These resources provide hands-on learning experiences, helping students understand the complexities of advocacy and public policy.

Lesson Plans and Activities

The curriculum includes comprehensive lesson plans, worksheets, and activities that explore the history, structure, and impact of interest groups. Teachers can use these materials to facilitate discussions, debates, and projects, ensuring that students develop critical thinking skills and an informed perspective on civic engagement.

Assessments and Reflection

iCivics also provides assessments and reflection exercises to evaluate student understanding of interest groups. These tools encourage learners to analyze real-world scenarios, consider multiple viewpoints, and reflect on the ethical dimensions of advocacy. Such activities foster deeper engagement with the material and prepare students to participate actively in society.

Benefits and Criticisms of Interest Groups

Benefits of Interest Groups

Interest groups contribute to democracy by representing diverse interests, facilitating public participation, and holding government accountable. They provide expertise and information to policymakers, help organize citizens around shared concerns, and promote transparency in the legislative process. By ensuring that multiple voices are heard, interest groups strengthen pluralism and enhance the responsiveness of government institutions.

Criticisms of Interest Groups

Despite their benefits, interest groups can face criticism for exerting disproportionate influence, prioritizing narrow interests over the public good, and contributing to policy gridlock. Some argue that well-funded groups have an unfair advantage, leading to unequal representation. Others point to the risk of special interests dominating political discourse, potentially undermining democratic principles.

- 1. Promote civic participation
- 2. Offer specialized expertise

- 3. Facilitate government accountability
- 4. Can lead to unequal representation
- 5. May cause policy gridlock

Real-World Examples of Interest Groups

Business and Trade Associations

Organizations such as the U.S. Chamber of Commerce and National Association of Manufacturers represent business interests at the national level. They lobby for policies that support economic growth, tax incentives, and regulatory reforms. These groups are influential in shaping the direction of economic policy and industry standards.

Environmental Advocacy Groups

Groups like the Sierra Club and Natural Resources Defense Council work to protect the environment and promote sustainable policies. They engage in lobbying, litigation, and public education to advance their causes. Environmental interest groups are instrumental in raising awareness about climate change, conservation, and pollution control.

Civil Rights Organizations

Organizations such as the NAACP and the ACLU focus on defending civil liberties and promoting social justice. They advocate for policy changes, challenge discriminatory practices, and provide legal support to affected individuals. Civil rights groups play a critical role in advancing equality and protecting constitutional rights.

Challenges Faced by Interest Groups

Legal and Regulatory Constraints

Interest groups must navigate complex legal and regulatory frameworks governing their activities. Campaign finance laws, lobbying regulations, and disclosure requirements can affect how groups operate and advocate. Compliance with these rules is essential to maintain transparency and public trust.

Public Perception and Trust

Interest groups often face skepticism from the public regarding their motives and methods. Building credibility and maintaining ethical standards are ongoing challenges. Groups must demonstrate accountability and transparency to foster positive relationships with both citizens and policymakers.

Competition and Fragmentation

The presence of numerous interest groups can lead to competition and fragmentation within policy debates. Groups with similar goals may vie for attention and resources, complicating efforts to build effective coalitions. Fragmentation can dilute influence and make consensus-building more difficult.

Interest Groups and Civic Engagement

Empowering Citizens through Advocacy

Interest groups empower citizens by providing avenues for participation in the political process. Through education, mobilization, and advocacy, these organizations help individuals express their views, engage with policymakers, and contribute to shaping public policy. Civic engagement is a cornerstone of democracy, and interest groups play a pivotal role in fostering active involvement.

The Role of iCivics in Promoting Civic Literacy

iCivics enhances civic literacy by equipping students with the knowledge and skills needed to understand and interact with interest groups. Through games, lessons, and activities, iCivics encourages critical thinking about advocacy, representation, and the balance of interests in society. This approach prepares future citizens to make informed decisions and participate responsibly in democratic life.

Long-Term Impact on Democratic Participation

By educating young people about interest groups, iCivics contributes to sustained civic engagement and informed participation. Understanding how interest groups operate enables citizens to navigate political processes, advocate for their beliefs, and hold leaders accountable. The long-term impact is a more vibrant, inclusive, and resilient democracy.

Q: What are interest groups as explained by iCivics?

A: Interest groups, according to iCivics, are organized groups of people who work together to promote and protect their shared interests by influencing government policies and decisions.

Q: Why are interest groups important in a democracy?

A: Interest groups are important because they represent diverse viewpoints, facilitate public participation, and help hold government officials accountable by advocating for policies that reflect their members' concerns.

Q: How does iCivics teach about interest groups?

A: iCivics uses interactive games, lesson plans, and activities to teach students about the role, strategies, and impact of interest groups in the American political system.

Q: What are the main types of interest groups covered in iCivics resources?

A: The main types include economic interest groups, public interest groups, governmental interest groups, ideological interest groups, and single-issue groups.

Q: What strategies do interest groups use to influence policy?

A: Interest groups use lobbying, grassroots mobilization, forming Political Action Committees (PACs), media campaigns, and coalition-building to influence government policy.

Q: Can interest groups have negative effects on politics?

A: Yes, interest groups can sometimes lead to unequal representation, policy gridlock, or the dominance of special interests over the public good.

Q: How do interest groups empower citizens?

A: Interest groups empower citizens by providing opportunities for advocacy, education, and engagement with the political process, enabling them to participate more actively in democracy.

Q: Are there examples of real-world interest groups?

A: Examples include the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, Sierra Club, NAACP, and ACLU, each representing different sectors or causes within society.

Q: What challenges do interest groups face?

A: Interest groups face challenges such as legal constraints, public skepticism, competition among similar groups, and the need to maintain transparency and ethical standards.

Q: How does understanding interest groups benefit students?

A: Understanding interest groups helps students become informed citizens, capable of analyzing advocacy efforts, evaluating policy debates, and participating responsibly in civic life.

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Interest Groups iCivics: Understanding the Power Players in American Politics

Are you a student grappling with the complexities of American government? Do you find the concept of interest groups confusing? This comprehensive guide dives deep into the world of interest groups, using the invaluable resources provided by iCivics, a non-profit dedicated to civic education. We'll demystify the role of interest groups in shaping policy, explore different types of groups, and provide actionable strategies for using iCivics' tools to master this crucial aspect of American democracy. This post will equip you with a thorough understanding of interest groups and how they impact our political landscape.

What are Interest Groups? (Understanding the Basics)

Interest groups, also known as pressure groups or lobbying groups, are organizations of people with shared interests who work together to influence government policy. Unlike political parties that aim for broad electoral success, interest groups focus on specific issues. They can represent a vast range of interests, from environmental conservation to business advocacy, labor rights to gun ownership. Their influence stems from their ability to mobilize members, raise funds, and effectively communicate their positions to policymakers. iCivics offers engaging simulations and games that help visualize this complex dynamic.

Types of Interest Groups: A Diverse Landscape

iCivics helps illuminate the diversity within the interest group landscape. We can categorize them in several ways:

Economic Interest Groups: These groups represent the interests of businesses, labor unions, and professional organizations. Examples include the Chamber of Commerce advocating for business-friendly policies and labor unions fighting for worker rights. iCivics games often simulate the competing interests between these groups.

Public Interest Groups: These groups advocate for issues believed to benefit the broader public, such as environmental protection or consumer rights. Organizations like the Sierra Club and the American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU) fall under this category. iCivics resources often highlight the challenges faced by these groups in advocating for often-unpopular but vital causes.

Single-Issue Groups: These groups concentrate their efforts on a single policy area, such as gun control or abortion rights. Their focused approach allows for intense lobbying and mobilization of supporters. iCivics simulations can effectively demonstrate the power of focused advocacy.

Governmental Interest Groups: These are groups representing state or local governments seeking federal funding or policy changes. Their lobbying efforts often center on securing resources for their constituents. iCivics can help students understand the federalist system and the role of these groups in navigating it.

Utilizing iCivics Resources to Learn About Interest Groups

iCivics offers a wealth of interactive resources to effectively learn about interest groups:

Games: Engaging simulations allow students to experience the challenges and strategies involved in influencing government policy. These games often present realistic scenarios, forcing players to

make strategic decisions based on limited resources and competing interests.

Activities: Worksheets, quizzes, and other activities reinforce key concepts and provide opportunities for critical thinking and analysis. These activities help solidify understanding of complex topics like lobbying techniques and the influence of money in politics.

Lessons: Structured lessons provide a foundational understanding of interest groups, their role in the political system, and their impact on policymaking. iCivics lessons often connect the abstract concepts to real-world examples, making the information more relevant and accessible.

The Impact of Interest Groups on Policymaking

Interest groups play a significant role in shaping public policy. They achieve this through various methods:

Lobbying: Direct communication with legislators and government officials to influence policy decisions.

Campaign Contributions: Providing financial support to candidates who align with their interests.

Grassroots Mobilization: Engaging the public to contact their elected officials and express their views on specific issues.

Public Awareness Campaigns: Educating the public about specific issues and influencing public opinion.

It's crucial to understand that while interest groups are integral to the American political system, their influence can also raise concerns about fairness and equity. iCivics materials often explore these complexities, encouraging critical engagement with the role and potential shortcomings of these powerful organizations.

Conclusion

Understanding interest groups is crucial for comprehending the American political system. iCivics provides a powerful toolkit for students to learn about this complex topic in an engaging and interactive manner. By utilizing the games, activities, and lessons offered by iCivics, students can develop a comprehensive understanding of interest groups and their profound impact on policymaking. The resources offer a balanced perspective, encouraging critical thinking about the benefits and potential downsides of interest group influence.

FAQs

- 1. Are all interest groups equal in influence? No, some interest groups wield significantly more influence than others, often due to factors like funding, organizational strength, and access to policymakers.
- 2. How can I find more information about specific interest groups? Many interest groups have websites that detail their mission, activities, and lobbying efforts. You can also research them through reputable news sources and academic databases.
- 3. Is lobbying unethical? The ethics of lobbying are a subject of ongoing debate. While lobbying is a protected form of free speech, concerns exist regarding transparency, potential corruption, and unequal access to policymakers.
- 4. How can I participate in the work of an interest group? Many interest groups welcome volunteers and members. You can find opportunities to participate in their advocacy efforts by visiting their websites or contacting them directly.
- 5. What role does the media play in shaping public perception of interest groups? The media plays a critical role in shaping public opinion by reporting on interest group activities, highlighting their influence on policy, and offering different perspectives on their role in the political process. Critical media literacy is essential when evaluating information related to interest groups.

interest groups icivics: Teaching Civics Today: The iCivics Approach to Classroom Innovation and Student Engagement John Larmer, 2022-01-14 Learn how to teach civics in today's classrooms! This professional book explores key civics topics and offers strategies for incorporating civics into social studies class. Developed in partnership with civic education expert iCivics, this teacher resource provides strategies that build civics knowledge, develop 21st century skills, and engage students. Bring civics into the social studies classroom in a fun, meaningful way with this teacher-friendly book!

interest groups icivics: The Three Ages of Government Jos C.N. Raadschelders, 2020-11-05 It is only in the last 250 years that ordinary people (in some parts of the world) have become citizens rather than subjects. This change happened in a very short period, between 1780 and 1820, a result of the foundations of democracy laid in the age of revolutions. A century later local governments embraced this shift due to rapid industrialization, urbanization, and population growth. During the twentieth century, all democratic governments began to perform a range of tasks, functions, and services that had no historical precedent. In the thirty years following the Second World War, Western democracies created welfare states that, for the first time in history, significantly reduced the gap between the wealthy and everyone else. Many of the reforms of that postwar period have been since rolled back because of the belief that government should be more like a business. Jos C.N. Raadschelders provides the information that all citizens should have about their connections to government, why there is a government, what it does, how it does it, and why we can no longer do without it. The Three Ages of Government rises above stereotypical thinking to show the centrality of government in human life.

interest groups icivics: Fear and Schooling Ronald W. Evans, 2019-09-23 By exploring the tensions, impacts, and origins of major controversies relating to schooling and curricula since the early twentieth century, this insightful text illustrates how fear has played a key role in steering the development of education in the United States. Through rigorous historical investigation, Evans

demonstrates how numerous public disputes over specific curricular content have been driven by broader societal hopes and fears. Illustrating how the population's concerns have been historically projected onto American schooling, the text posits educational debate and controversy as a means by which we struggle over changing anxieties and competing visions of the future, and in doing so, limit influence of key progressive initiatives. Episodes examined include the Rugg textbook controversy, the 1950s crisis over progressive education, the MACOS dispute, conservative restoration, culture war battles, and corporate school reform. In examining specific periods of intense controversy, and drawing on previously untapped archival sources, the author identifies patterns and discontinuities and explains the origins, development, and results of each case. Ultimately, this volume powerfully reveals the danger that fear-based controversies pose to hopes for democratic education. This informative and insightful text will be of interest to graduate and postgraduate students, researchers, and academics in the fields of educational reform, history of education, curriculum studies, and sociology of education.

interest groups icivics: Serious Fun Carolyn Hirst-Loucks, Kim P. Loucks, 2013-11-07 Discover how to improve student engagement, foster collaboration, and boost achievement with the power of fun. This book provides dozens of instructional strategies that can be implemented immediately into any classroom to increase student motivation and foster love of learning. Backed up with brain-based research, you can use these techniques, activities, and resources for: - priming students to learn at the beginning of class - promoting higher-level thinking and creativity - helping students master critical concepts and skills - without stress! - class-building and team-building Strategies are supplemented with content-specific examples and sample lesson plans. Learn how to make your classroom a seriously fun place to learn!

interest groups icivics: Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue David J. Flinders, P. Bruce Uhrmacher, Christy M. Moroye, 2014-08-01 Curriculum and Teaching Dialogue (CTD) is a publication of the American Association of Teaching and Curriculum (AATC), a national learned society for the scholarly fields of teaching and curriculum. The fields includes those working on the theory, design and evaluation of educational programs at large. University faculty members identified with this field are typically affiliated with the departments of curriculum and instruction, teacher education, educational foundations, elementary education, secondary education, and higher education. CTD promotes all analytical and interpretive approaches that are appropriate for the scholarly study of teaching and curriculum. In fulfillment of this mission, CTD addresses a range of issues across the broad fields of educational research and policy for all grade levels and types of educational programs.

interest groups icivics: Stakeholder Engagement Aimee L. Franklin, 2020-06-18 This book analyses the relationship between stakeholder engagement practices and organizational sustainability across sectors and disciplines. It illuminates the relationships between the inputs and processes, vital for all kinds of organizations to engage stakeholders. Then, it describes the mutually-valued outcomes that can produce broader organizational impacts and sustainability. Each chapter is structured around a logic model that provides an analytical framework to engage the reader in strategic analysis and offer practical applications for adaptation and implementation in any organization. The book encourages the reader to systematically consider the descriptive, instrumental, and normative aspects of stakeholder theory as a precursor to designing stakeholder engagement practices.

interest groups icivics: Knowledge Games Karen Schrier, 2016-06-15 Are games the knowledge-producers of the future? Imagine if new knowledge and insights came not just from research centers, think tanks, and universities but also from games, of all things. Video games have been viewed as causing social problems, but what if they actually helped solve them? This question drives Karen Schrier's Knowledge Games, which seeks to uncover the potentials and pitfalls of using games to make discoveries, solve real-world problems, and better understand our world. For example, so-called knowledge games—such as Foldit, a protein-folding puzzle game, SchoolLife, which crowdsources bullying interventions, and Reverse the Odds, in which mobile game players

analyze breast cancer data—are already being used by researchers to gain scientific, psychological, and humanistic insights. Schrier argues that knowledge games are potentially powerful because of their ability to motivate a crowd of problem solvers within a dynamic system while also tapping into the innovative data processing and computational abilities of games. In the near future, Schrier asserts, knowledge games may be created to understand and predict voting behavior, climate concerns, historical perspectives, online harassment, susceptibility to depression, or optimal advertising strategies, among other things. In addition to investigating the intersection of games, problem solving, and crowdsourcing, Schrier examines what happens when knowledge emerges from games and game players rather than scientists, professionals, and researchers. This accessible book also critiques the limits and implications of games and considers how they may redefine what it means to produce knowledge, to play, to educate, and to be a citizen.

interest groups icivics: Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century Michael T. Rogers, Donald M. Gooch, 2015-09-18 Imagine an America where politicians, governmental institutions, schools, new technologies, and interest groups work together to promote informed, engaged citizens. Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century brings together scholars from various disciplines to show how such a United States is possible today. Inspired by Alexis de Tocqueville's analysis of American democracy in the early 1800s, this edited volume represents a multidimensional evaluation of civic education in its new and varied forms. While some lament a civics crisis in America today, Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century raises hope that we can have an informed and active citizenry. We find the activities of a number of politicians, government institutions, schools and interest groups as promising developments in the struggle to educate and engage Americans in their democracy. New technologies and new innovations in civic education have laid the foundation for a revitalized American civic ecology. With Civic Education in the Twenty-First Century, we call for the United States to make these practices less isolated and more common throughout the county. The volume is broken into three major sections. First there are four chapters exploring the history and philosophical debates about civic education, particularly with respect to its role in America's educational institutions. Then, the second section provides seven groundbreaking inquiries into how politicians and political institutions can promote civic education and engagement through their routine operations. As some examples, this section explores how politicians through campaigns and judiciaries through community programs enhance civic knowledge and encourage civic engagement. This section also explores how new technologies like the Internet and social media are increasingly used by government institutions and other entities to encourage a more politically informed and engaged citizenry. Finally, the third section contains six chapters that explore programs and practices in higher education that are enhancing civic education, engagement and our knowledge of them. From the virtual civics campus of Fort Hayes State to citizens' academies throughout the country, this section shows the possibilities for schools today to once again be civics actors and promoters.

interest groups icivics: The Politics of Civic Education Eleni M. Mantas-Kourounis, 2024-06-10 This book chronicles the progression of civic education advocacy since the early 2000s. It identifies the main actors that called for civic education reform, describes their motivations and policy platforms, and documents the path taken to capture state policy agendas. It argues that No Child Left Behind incentivized civic education advocates to mobilize a "call to action" to restore emphasis on civics that materialized into national policy reform proposals that successfully captured the agendas of state legislatures and bureaucracies. This book analyzes the implementation and sustainability of these civic education policy reforms by undertaking a comparative case study analysis of school districts in Utah and Connecticut. Through the voices of teachers and district administrators, the book tells the story of what happened when these state policy reforms inspired by national initiatives hit the local level where the rubber meets the road. As ideological debates about schools and democracy unfold across the country, as civic education advocates and proposals proliferate, this book treats civic education not as panacea but as a concrete policy area to be analyzed and understood. It contextualizes the current debate and offers a critical assessment of the

most recent, comprehensive state-level civic education policy reform. It argues that while questions linger about what type of civic-inspired educational interventions remains most effective for whom, where, and why, the implementation of such interventions are profoundly impacted by local actors and local politics and that future initiatives should take this dimension into consideration.

interest groups icivics: The Character of Curriculum Studies W. Pinar, 2011-12-19 Assembles essays addressing the recurring question of the 'subject,' understood both as human person and school subject, thereby elaborating the subjective and disciplinary character of curriculum studies.

interest groups icivics: Toward Community-Based Learning, 2020-01-29 Toward Community-Based Learning contends that the ideal school offers the opportunity to understand reality in a way that connects teaching and education with conditions in the surrounding community and the student's life and concerns. This view holds that problem solving requires an understanding and awareness of the whole, which can be achieved through direct activities. In this manner, learning is linked to its natural context, with ideal instruction being actively problem-oriented, holistic, and life-centered. This thought-provoking volume offers an essential and comprehensive picture of community-based learning in the field of education. The book deals with the history of community-based learning as well as its present applications, including its global successes and difficulties. The authors provide numerous pedagogical approaches that are designed to meet the challenges of contemporary education. They show how learning is connected with authentic community environments in which students can gain new understandings through solving emerging problems. They also demonstrate how teachers can make learning more functional and holistic so that students have the ability to work in new situations within the complex world around them. School-specific descriptions reveal how teachers and their students have implemented community-based projects in the U.S.A., India, and China at different times. Contributors are: Thomas L. Alsbury, Mary Ewans, Linda Hargreaves, Susan K. Johnsen, Eija Kimonen, Susan Kobashigawa, Karon N. LeCompte, Suzanne M. Nesmith, Raimo Nevalainen, and Lakia M. Scott.

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interest groups icivics: America's State Governments Jennifer Bachner, Benjamin Ginsberg, 2020-07-23 This timely and important new work takes a critical look at government in the American states and illustrates the disconnect between state government institutions and their constituents. The text illuminates three basic political problems of state governments: weak constitutional and institutional foundations; a lack of civic engagement; and long histories of unchecked public corruption. In addition, the book explains why some states did and others did not respond promptly to the COVID-19 pandemic and examines America's long-standing problem of police and prosecutorial misconduct-providing a context for understanding the demonstrations and protests that rocked American cities in the summer of 2020. For students and citizens of state politics, the book concludes with a proposal aimed at civic literacy and action

interest groups icivics: Chocolate City Chris Myers Asch, George Derek Musgrove, 2017-10-17 Monumental in scope and vividly detailed, Chocolate City tells the tumultuous, four-century story of race and democracy in our nation's capital. Emblematic of the ongoing tensions between America's expansive democratic promises and its enduring racial realities, Washington often has served as a

national battleground for contentious issues, including slavery, segregation, civil rights, the drug war, and gentrification. But D.C. is more than just a seat of government, and authors Chris Myers Asch and George Derek Musgrove also highlight the city's rich history of local activism as Washingtonians of all races have struggled to make their voices heard in an undemocratic city where residents lack full political rights. Tracing D.C.'s massive transformations--from a sparsely inhabited plantation society into a diverse metropolis, from a center of the slave trade to the nation's first black-majority city, from Chocolate City to Latte City--Asch and Musgrove offer an engaging narrative peppered with unforgettable characters, a history of deep racial division but also one of hope, resilience, and interracial cooperation.

interest groups icivics: The Rhetoric of Supreme Court Women Nichola D. Gutgold, 2012 From 1981 to 2010, the advancements of women in the United States can be seen in the words of the four pioneering women on the Supreme Court. The Rhetoric of Supreme Court Women: From Obstacles to Options, by Nichola D. Gutgold, explores how Sandra Day O'Connor and Ruth Bader Ginsburg used effective rhetoric and worked to overcome gender obstacles, while cultural changes in America provided Sonia Sotomayor and Elena Kagan with a wider range of rhetorical options. Gutgold's exploration of these four Supreme Court women provides valuable insight into the use of political communication and the changing gender zeitgeist in American politics.

interest groups icivics: We the Gamers Karen Schrier, 2021 Combining research-based perspectives and current examples including Minecraft and Animal Crossing: New Horizons, We the Gamers shows how games can be used in ethics, civics, and social studies education to inspire learning, critical thinking, and civic change.

interest groups icivics: Social Media for Civic Education Amy L. Chapman, 2022-10-17 This open access book provides the theoretical and pedagogical foundations for a promising new approach to civic education: using social media to teach civics. While many measures indicate that youth civic engagement has long been in decline, many of these measures fail to take into account all of the ways that youth can interact with civic life. One of these understudied ways is through social media, including platforms like Twitter, where young people have the opportunity to encounter the news, engage with people in power, and bring attention to the needs in their community. Throughout this volume, Chapman explores how and why teachers can use social media to teach civics, as well as how it might meet the needs of students in ways other approaches do not.

interest groups icivics: Political Animals Rick Shenkman, 2016-01-05 Can a football game affect the outcome of an election? What about shark attacks? Or a drought? In a rational world the answer, of course, would be no. But as bestselling historian Rick Shenkman explains in Political Animals, our world is anything but rational. Drawing on science, politics, and history, Shenkman explores the hidden forces behind our often illogical choices. Political Animals challenges us to go beyond the headlines, which often focus on what politicians do (or say they'll do), and to concentrate instead on what's really important: what shapes our response. Shenkman argues that, contrary to what we tell ourselves, it's our instincts rather than arguments appealing to reason that usually prevail. Pop culture tells us we can trust our instincts, but science is proving that when it comes to politics our Stone Age brain often malfunctions, misfires, and leads us astray. Fortunately, we can learn to make our instincts work in our favor. Shenkman takes readers on a whirlwind tour of laboratories where scientists are exploring how sea slugs remember, chimpanzees practice deception, and patients whose brains have been split in two tell stories. The scientists' findings give us new ways of understanding our history and ourselves -- and prove we don't have to be prisoners of our evolutionary past. In this engaging, illuminating, and often riotous chronicle of our political culture, Shenkman probes the depths of the human mind to explore how we can become more political, and less animal.

interest groups icivics: Bulletin, 1936

interest groups icivics: The Citizen's Guide to Lobbying Congress (Rev and Updated Ed) Donald E. deKieffer, 2007-09 Individuals and grassroots organizations interested in becoming involved in petitioning their government will discover essential information on the techniques and

laws to lobbying in this clear and enlightening guide. New lobbyists will learn how to best craft and direct their messages so that their concerns will be heard, make congressional contacts, get the most out of letter-writing campaigns, generate press, give campaign contributions, and even get invited to testify before congressional committees. This resource details the most recent lobbying laws, including the Federal Election Campaign Act amended in 2002, as well as a list of appropriate gifts to give to a member of Congress or their staff. This revised edition contains updated chapters and resources that will ensure that neophyte lobbyists will have the most up-to-date information when lobbying their government.

interest groups icivics: Teaching Together Mary Christenson, Marilyn Johnston, Marilyn Johnston-Parsons, Jim Norris, 2001 This bulletin, a collection of essays, provides preservice, beginning, and experienced social studies teachers with provocative ideas for and a realistic look at the challenges of developing curriculum through collaboration between elementary/secondary teachers and university professors. The book begins with an introductory essay by the editors. Under the first section, Elementary, are the following essays: (1) Teaching Primary-Grade Students about Cultural Universals (J. Alleman; J. Brophy; B. L. Knighton; G. M. Henig); (2) Teaching Social Studies in an Urban Elementary School: Collaboration for Integration and Inquiry Learning (K. C. Barton; L. A. Kreimer); (3) Service-Learning and Community-Based Teaching and Learning: Developing Citizenship through Social Action (S. R. Beisser; D. Schmidt); (4) Family/School/University Collaboration To Enrich Social Studies Instruction (B. Cozza; T. Mbugua; P. Noakes; M. Intoccia; L. Guzzi; M. L. Kelly); and (5) Connecting Family and State Histories: A Teacher Educator and Classroom Teacher Collaborate (A. L. McCall; T. Ristow). Essays under the second section, Middle School, are: (6) Students Reclaim Their Community's History: Conducting Interdisciplinary Research with Technological Applications (M. Alibrandi; C. Beal; A. V. Wilson; A. Thompson; B. Mackie; N. Sinclair; V. Owens; R. Hagevik); (7) Global Connections Project: Collaboration among Middle Level Students and Teachers and University Teacher Education Students and Faculty (H. Carlson; C. Holm); (8) Developing a Service Ethic Together: A Middle School/University Partnership (A. M. Harwood; C. Allsop; L. Herink; C. Hart); (9) Public Achievement: Collaboration, Action, and Civic Education (J. Kunkel; C. Johnson; H. Bakke; J. Miller); and (10) Integrating the Curriculum and Examining Social Issues in the Sixth Grade (A. J. Milson; L. Elish-Piper; P. Downey; J. Nordstrom). Essays under the final section, High School, are: (11) School Schedules: A Key to Time and Team Teaching in the American Social History Project (D. Gerwin; V. Manolios); (12) Dual Agendas of Reform and Research: Implementing the Reforms of the Coalition of Essential Schools through 'World Connections' (M. M. Merryfield; S. Shapiro); (13) Collaborating on High School Economics (N. Mallory; S. L. Miller); (14) Collaboration on Campus: Teaching Rural High School Students through College Methods Classes (S. B. Oldendorf; M. R. Riney; J. Hutchison); (15) Preserving Oral Historical Resources through a Community, University, and School-Based Collaboration (W. W. Wilen; L. Picicco); and (16) Teacher Release to Industry Program as Professional Development of Teachers of Social Studies (W. Prior; R. Symons). (BT)

Interest groups icivics: Handbook of Research on Solutions for Equity and Social Justice in Education Etim, James, Etim, Alice, 2023-03-02 Education's role should further social justice, prepare students to compete for higher social positions, train workers, and engage students so that they become active participants in a democratic society. However, as with many global systems, education has long ago fallen victim to the institutional ailments of systematic oppression and discrimination. In order to promote equity and social justice in education, it is paramount that educators and administrators acknowledge systematic challenges in education and the solutions. The Handbook of Research on Solutions for Equity and Social Justice in Education discusses how teachers and school administrators practice equity and inclusion in their schools. It provides examples of social justice and how it affects society, as well as specific case studies that aim at engendering equity and inclusion for minorities. It further discusses these issues in a global context. Covering topics such as agentic empowerment, social justice in dialogue, and teacher social justice advocacy, this major reference work is a critical resource for faculty and administrators of both K-12

and higher education, preservice teachers, teacher educators, school social workers and counselors, librarians, government officials, researchers, and academicians.

interest groups icivics: American Government 3e Glen Krutz, Sylvie Waskiewicz, 2023-05-12 Black & white print. American Government 3e aligns with the topics and objectives of many government courses. Faculty involved in the project have endeavored to make government workings, issues, debates, and impacts meaningful and memorable to students while maintaining the conceptual coverage and rigor inherent in the subject. With this objective in mind, the content of this textbook has been developed and arranged to provide a logical progression from the fundamental principles of institutional design at the founding, to avenues of political participation, to thorough coverage of the political structures that constitute American government. The book builds upon what students have already learned and emphasizes connections between topics as well as between theory and applications. The goal of each section is to enable students not just to recognize concepts, but to work with them in ways that will be useful in later courses, future careers, and as engaged citizens. In order to help students understand the ways that government, society, and individuals interconnect, the revision includes more examples and details regarding the lived experiences of diverse groups and communities within the United States. The authors and reviewers sought to strike a balance between confronting the negative and harmful elements of American government, history, and current events, while demonstrating progress in overcoming them. In doing so, the approach seeks to provide instructors with ample opportunities to open discussions, extend and update concepts, and drive deeper engagement.

interest groups icivics: The Future of Civic Education Elizabeth Yeager Washington, Keith C. Barton, 2024-10-01 Speaking to the need to move beyond traditional formulations, this textbook presents radical visions for transforming civic education in the United States. Drawing on the experience of educators and scholars—including those rooted in feminist, queer, abolitionist, global, and race-conscious perspectives—this work offers new, practical ideas for civic education reform. Responding to recent political crises, many scholars, educators, and public commentators have called for a rebirth of civic education, but these all are grounded in the premise that the goal of civic education should be to teach students about the U.S. Constitutional system and how to operate within it. This book argues that the U.S. governmental system, including the Constitution, is infused with racist and anti-democratic premises and procedures. It asks: How can we seek a new path—one that is more democratic, more equitable, and more humane? A diverse range of leading civic educators, who are willing not just to push the boundaries of civic education but to operate outside its assumptions altogether, explore what future possibilities for civic education might look like and how these innovative ideas could be implemented in the classroom. Combining theory with practice, The Future of Civic Education will be important reading for those studying or researching in social studies methods, social studies issues, citizenship, and civic education. It will also be beneficial to social studies teachers at elementary and secondary levels, as well as policymakers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs).

interest groups icivics: *Betting on America* James W. Cortada, Edward Wakin, 2002 The purpose of this book is to remove the shrouds of uncertainty that 9/11/2001 and the media have created, to make sense of the trends and consequences of these times and to suggest ways of understanding and leveraging these times.

interest groups icivics: Power Play Asi Burak, Laura Parker, 2017-01-31 "An insider's view of the good things that can emerge from being glued to a screen. . . . A solid piece of pop-culture/business journalism." —Kirkus Reviews The phenomenal growth of gaming has inspired plenty of hand-wringing since its inception—from the press, politicians, parents, and everyone else concerned with its effect on our brains, bodies, and hearts. But what if games could be good, not only for individuals but for the world? In Power Play, Asi Burak and Laura Parker explore how video games are now pioneering innovative social change around the world. As the former executive director and now chairman of Games for Change, Asi Burak has spent the last ten years supporting and promoting the use of video games for social good, in collaboration with leading organizations

like the White House, NASA, World Bank, and The United Nations. The games for change movement has introduced millions of players to meaningful experiences around everything from the Israeli-Palestinian conflict to the US Constitution. Power Play looks to the future of games as a global movement. Asi Burak and Laura Parker profile the luminaries behind some of the movement's most iconic games, including former Supreme Court judge Sandra Day O'Connor and Pulitzer Prize-winning authors Nicholas Kristof and Sheryl WuDunn. They also explore the promise of virtual reality to address social and political issues with unprecedented immersion, and see what the next generation of game makers have in store for the future.

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interest groups icivics: Scaffolding for Multilingual Learners in Elementary and Secondary Schools Luciana C. de Oliveira, Ruslana Westerlund, 2022-08-24 This insightful and timely volume addresses how scaffolding can be used to support multilingual learners to amplify their opportunities for learning. As a dynamic educational process, scaffolding facilitates responsive and adaptive teaching and learning; addresses students' needs; increases student autonomy; and promotes adaptive, high-level learning without simplifying instruction. Section I covers the theoretical grounding and reconceptualizations of scaffolding. Section II offers concrete examples and case studies from varied classroom contexts. Section III provides a window into professional development to discuss the work of pre-service and in-service teachers, and how they develop their understandings and practices of teaching multilingual learners. Contributors address diverse topics, including translanguaging in the classroom, scaffolding as a tool for equitable teaching, virtual learning, as well as learning in dual language and content area classrooms. Featuring examples from teacher education programs as well as principles for design of educative curriculum materials, this book is ideal for pre-service teachers and students in TESOL, applied linguistics, and language education.

interest groups icivics: *New Public Governance* Douglas F. Morgan, Brian J. Cook, 2014-05-20 Written by scholars who have been at the forefront of the NPG debate as well as by scholar-practitioners, this book provides lessons learned from experience on how networked, contract-based and partnership-centered approaches to government can be undertaken in ways that preserve the values at the center of the American constitutional and political system.

interest groups icivics: Supporting Reading in Grades 6-12 Sybil M. Farwell, Nancy L. Teger, 2012-06-11 This book presents a curricular framework for students grades 6-12 that school librarians and teachers can use collaboratively to enhance reading skill development, promote literature appreciation, and motivate young people to incorporate reading into their lives, beyond the required schoolwork. Supporting Reading Grades 6-12: A Guideaddresses head-on the disturbing trend of declining leisure reading among students and demonstrates how school librarians can contribute to the development of lifelong reading habits as well as improve students' motivation and test scores. The book provides a comprehensive framework for achieving this: the READS curriculum, which stands for Read as a personal activity; Explore characteristics, history, and awards of creative works; Analyze structure and aesthetic features of creative works; Develop a literary-based product; and Score reading progress. Each of these five components is explained thoroughly, describing how school librarians can encourage students to read as individuals, in groups, and as school communities; support classroom teachers' instruction; and connect students to today's constantly evolving technologies. Used in combination with an inquiry/information-skills model, the READS curriculum enables school librarians to deliver a dynamic, balanced library

program that addresses AASL's Standards for the 21st-Century Learner.

interest groups icivics: Civic Media Literacies Paul Mihailidis, 2018-09-03 Civic life today is mediated. Communities small and large are now using connective platforms to share information, engage in local issues, facilitate vibrant debate, and advocate for social causes. In this timely book, Paul Mihailidis explores the texture of daily engagement in civic life, and the resources—human, technological, and practical—that citizens employ when engaging in civic actions for positive social impact. In addition to examining the daily civic actions that are embedded in media and digital literacies and human connectedness, Mihailidis outlines a model for empowering young citizens to use media to meaningfully engage in daily life.

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interest groups icivics: Cancel Wars Sigal R. Ben-Porath, 2023-01-16 An even-handed exploration of the polarized state of campus politics that suggests ways for schools and universities to encourage discourse across difference. College campuses have become flashpoints of the current culture war and, consequently, much ink has been spilled over the relationship between universities and the cultivation or coddling of young American minds. Philosopher Sigal R. Ben-Porath takes head-on arguments that infantilize students who speak out against violent and racist discourse on campus or rehash interpretations of the First Amendment. Ben-Porath sets out to demonstrate the role of the university in American society and, specifically, how it can model free speech in ways that promote democratic ideals. In Cancel Wars, she argues that the escalating struggles over "cancel culture," "safe spaces," and free speech on campus are a manifestation of broader democratic erosion in the United States. At the same time, she takes a nuanced approach to the legitimate claims of harm put forward by those who are targeted by hate speech. Ben-Porath's focus on the boundaries of acceptable speech (and on the disproportional impact that hate speech has on marginalized groups) sheds light on the responsibility of institutions to respond to extreme speech in ways that proactively establish conversations across difference. Establishing these conversations has profound implications for political discourse beyond the boundaries of collegiate institutions. If we can draw on the truth, expertise, and reliable sources of information that are within the work of academic institutions, we might harness the shared construction of knowledge that takes place at schools, colleges, and universities against truth decay. Of interest to teachers and school leaders, this book shows that by expanding and disseminating knowledge, universities can help rekindle the civic trust that is necessary for revitalizing democracy.

interest groups icivics: Game-based Learning in Action Matthew Farber, 2018 Matthew Farber's Game-Based Learning in Action: How an Expert Affinity Group Teaches with Games showcases how one affinity group of K12 educators--known as The Tribe--teaches with games.

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interest groups icivics: *Technology in the Middle and Secondary Social Studies Classroom*Scott K. Scheuerell, 2015-03-12 Technology in the Middle and Secondary Social Studies Classroom introduces pre-service teachers to the research underpinning the effective integration of technology into the social studies curriculum. Building off of established theoretical frameworks, veteran social studies teacher educator Scott Scheuerell shows how the implementation of key technologies in the classroom can help foster higher-level thinking among students. Plentiful, user-friendly examples illustrate how specific educational tools—including games, social media, flipped classrooms, and other emerging technologies—spur critical thinking and foster authentic intellectual work. A rigorous study, Technology in the Middle and Secondary Social Studies Classroom provides a comprehensive, up-to-date research framework for conceptualizing successful, technology-rich social studies classrooms.

interest groups icivics: Immigration and America's Cities Joaquin Jay Gonzalez III, Roger L. Kemp, 2016-02-17 Generations ago, immigrants came to the U.S. from Europe and Africa in large numbers. Today they are arriving mainly from Latin America and Asia. Most are documented but many are not. While the federal and most state governments have done little beyond controlling borders and ports of entry to address pressing immigration issues, public officials and community organizations at the local level have been advancing commonsense, pragmatic solutions to accommodate the newest members of American society. This collection of essays provides a handbook for developing good county- and municipal-level immigrant services. The contributors cover a diverse range of trends, issues and practices, including immigration reform, language access, identification and driver's licensing, employment, education, voting, public safety and legal assistance.

interest groups icivics: Using Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom Kathleen Kopp, 2012-01-01 Get the most out of the latest classroom technology with Using Interactive Whiteboards in the Classroom. This resource covers the basics for interactive whiteboard users and explores the more advanced features to create truly dynamic lessons. Advice from real teachers and tips from experts provide the know how to incorporate interactive whiteboard activities across the curriculum, including the areas of language arts, mathematics, science, social studies, and health and fitness. Ideas for differentiation help teachers engage students with ease, providing a platform for increased student achievement.

interest groups icivics: The Bill of Obligations Richard Haass, 2023-01-24 A New York Times Bestseller A provocative guide to how we must reenvision citizenship if American democracy is to survive The United States faces dangerous threats from Russia, China, North Korea, Iran, terrorists, climate change, and future pandemics. The greatest peril to the country, however, comes not from abroad but from within, from none other than ourselves. The guestion facing us is whether we are prepared to do what is necessary to save our democracy. The Bill of Obligations is a bold call for change. In these pages, New York Times bestselling author Richard Haass argues that the very idea of citizenship must be revised and expanded. The Bill of Rights is at the center of our Constitution, yet our most intractable conflicts often emerge from contrasting views as to what our rights ought to be. As former Supreme Court Justice Stephen Breyer pointed out, "Many of our cases, the most difficult ones, are not about right versus wrong. They are about right versus right." The lesson is clear: rights alone cannot provide the basis for a functioning, much less flourishing, democracy. But there is a cure: to place obligations on the same footing as rights. The ten obligations that Haass introduces here are essential for healing our divisions and safeguarding the country's future. These obligations reenvision what it means to be an American citizen. They are not a burden but rather commitments that we make to fellow citizens and to the government to uphold democracy and counter the growing apathy, anger, selfishness, division, disinformation, and violence that threaten us all. Through an expert blend of civics, history, and political analysis, this book illuminates how Americans can rediscover and recover the attitudes and behaviors that have contributed so much to this country's success over the centuries. As Richard Haass argues, "We get the government and the country we deserve. Getting the one we need, however, is up to us." The Bill of Obligations gives

citizens across the political spectrum a plan of action to achieve it.

interest groups icivics: Out of Order Sandra Day O'Connor, 2014-02-25 NEW YORK TIMES BESTSELLER • From the first woman to sit on the United States Supreme Court comes this fascinating book about the history and evolution of the highest court in the land. "[A] succinct, snappy account of how today's court—so powerful, so controversial and so frequently dissected by the media—evolved from such startlingly humble and uncertain beginnings."—The New York Times Out of Order sheds light on the centuries of change and upheaval that transformed the Supreme Court from its uncertain beginnings into the remarkable institution that thrives and endures today. From the early days of circuit-riding, when justices who also served as trial judges traveled thousands of miles per year on horseback to hear cases, to the changes in civil rights ushered in by Earl Warren and Thurgood Marshall; from foundational decisions such as Marbury v. Madison to modern-day cases such as Hamdi v. Rumsfeld, Justice O'Connor weaves together stories and lessons from the history of the Court, charting turning points and pivotal moments that have helped define our nation's progress. With unparalleled insight and her unique perspective as a history-making figure, Justice O'Connor takes us on a personal exploration, painting vivid pictures of Justices in history, including Oliver Wendell Holmes Jr., one of the greatest jurists of all time; Thurgood Marshall, whose understated and succinct style would come to transform oral argument; William O. Douglas, called "The Lone Ranger" because of his impassioned and frequent dissents; and John Roberts, whom Justice O'Connor considers to be the finest practitioner of oral argument she has ever witnessed in Court. We get a rare glimpse into the Supreme Court's inner workings: how cases are chosen for hearing; the personal relationships that exist among the Justices; and the customs and traditions, both public and private, that bind one generation of jurists to the next—from the seating arrangements at Court lunches to the fiercely competitive basketball games played in the Court Building's top-floor gymnasium, the so-called "highest court in the land." Wise, candid, and assured, Out of Order is a rich offering of inspiring stories of one of our country's most important institutions, from one of our country's most respected pioneers.

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