



AP[®] GO/PO U.S. 2004 Sample Student Responses

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2.

"Different interest groups will choose different techniques to achieve their objective based on their resources, characteristics, and goals."

~~Comment~~ Most interest groups use ~~use~~ Campaign Contributions to achieve the objective. They will give a contribution to the Republican National Committee or the Democratic National Committee, or they would give to both. When Congress decides how to vote for a bill that involves the interest groups believes the Congressman would keep in mind that the interest group donated money to their organization.

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Many various interest groups exist, and each uses its own techniques to achieve its goals based on their resources, characteristics, and goals. These groups that techniques that interest groups may use are litigation, campaign contributions, grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization. Each has its own characteristics and is essential to the group that takes advantage of it.

First of all, interest groups may use litigation. Litigation is where an interest group talks to campaign chair persons to try to influence them into voting a certain way toward an issue. They find out information from other sources to make their offer more appealing, and they may use bribery or threats to get what they want. They use passed issues to assist them and to help them become more successful in ~~this~~ their approach. They may even use compromises to help them out. Interest groups would try this technique to help them get a law passed, or to help get someone into office. Litigation helps them to influence and get what their group wants.

In addition, interest groups may use campaign contributions to achieve their objectives. Campaign contributions are money that is given to campaigns to help ~~someone~~ ^{a candidate} have enough funding to get elected. Interest groups use campaign contributions

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To help ensure that the person that supports their stance on issues is elected, they will give campaigns contributions to bribe them into voting a specific way on issues of importance to their group. Campaign contributions allow interest groups to get a person elected that they want to hold office, or to get a certain person of authority to vote a particular way.

~~It is not only~~ ^{not only} only do interest groups use campaign contributions, but they also use grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization. Grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization allows interest groups to get their ideas out and to attract supporters. By grassroots lobbying they get others to see their stance on the issue at hand, and try to persuade them to think in that same mind frame. Mass mobilization allows interest groups and their many supporters to go around and get their "word" out for others to hear. Interest groups use this ~~both~~ technique to gain support and express what they want.

Grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization is used as the primary technique by the National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP). This group has, in the past years, used mass mobilization as a means of gaining supporters.

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They use this ~~too~~ techniques over litigation and campaign contributions, because the group is not extremely wealthy, so they don't have much to contribute to campaigns, and they need a bigger voice to persuade their audiences. The best way for them to achieve this is by getting a lot of supporters to march around and tell what they are marching for. This provides for more publicity and more voice to help them out.

Interest groups have to consider many different techniques to achieve their objects.

Litigation, Campaign contributions, and grassroots lobbying/mass mobilization are only a few ideas that interest groups ~~take~~ take advantage of.

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Different interest groups often use the techniques of litigation, campaign contributions, and grassroots lobbying / mass mobilization to gain support and achieve their goals.

Litigation is often used among interest groups to get their objectives passed. Some groups will file suits against people or groups to try and win so their ideas will be known and ~~there~~ there will be precedent for it. They also file amicus briefs which state their opinions on a case even if they aren't involved in it. This is also a good way to get their objectives known. Interest groups use litigation because it's a good way to try and get the rights they deserve or want. Women's activist groups as well as minorities often use this method to get their full rights, such as voting, desegregation, and various other things.

Campaign contributions is another good way to achieve their objectives. Many interest groups will make big contributions to people's campaigns hoping that they will return the favor if elected. Often times congressmen will then help out special interest groups who give them money in elections. Interest groups would choose this technique because if you give a lot of money to a campaign their chances of getting elected are higher, therefore once they do get elected they will help make policies and support legislation that has to do with your issues.

Grassroots lobbying and mass mobilization is a good way to make known an interest group's objectives. Groups use lots of media coverage, pamphlets, and letters to try and get their ideas

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known. This is a great way to show exactly what the program or idea will entail and also to gain a following to show their idea of support for it. It's a good way to encourage people to vote for it as well as get support from congress by helping to explain what it is.

The NAACP is an interest group that uses lots of these techniques to get their objectives achieved. The main technique they use, and most successful would be litigation. Throughout the civil rights movement especially, the NAACP would file many suits against people or companies to make it known about the rights they wished to get. It became very successful in helping African-Americans gain the rights they deserved through various court decisions. Often times they would file the same suit in many different districts to try and get inconsistent rulings so it would go to the Supreme Court, a technique very useful. For the NAACP, litigation would be much more useful than any of the other techniques. Since their main goal is to get equal rights for African-Americans they need courts to rule on issues to show the treatment is unconstitutional. The other techniques wouldn't work as well in getting their goal passed.