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| Whom do they represent? What issues are they concerned about? | How Have they wielded power in the policy making process? What legislation have they worked for or against? | Why are they so powerful? From where do they draw their influence? |
|  |  |  |

Interest Group / Lobbyist Exploration AP US Government and Politics

**Task**: Explore the influence of one of the groups listed below and prepare the document answering the three questions.

**Procedure**: Identify one group you wish to explore and learn about and work with your partner to answer the questions on the organizer. Choose ONE of the following lobbying groups or interest groups…

American Association for Justice

US Chamber of Commerce

National Association of Realtors

American Medical Association

American Hospital Association

Pharmaceutical Research and Manufacturers of America

National Cable and Telecom Association

National Rifle Association

AARP

American Coalition for Clean Coal Electricity

National Restaurant Association

American Fuel and Petrochemical Manufacturers

American Insurance Association

American Israel Public Affairs Committee

Natural Resources Defense Council

National Education Association

Answer the questions about your organization after doing some research online about their views and work. It would be helpful to visit their websites and look for information under categories like “About us”, “Our members”, “Political Action”, “Perspectives”, “Legislation”, “Public Policy”, etc. Not all of them will have obvious tabs with this information so you will have to work through their website. You might also find it helpful to do a general search on their organization in order to find out who they work with in Congress, what relevant committees they have influence over, when and how their name comes up in the news, etc. LEARN SOMETHING ABOUT THESE ORGANIZATIONS!

**Here’s a sample… Business Roundtable**

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| Whom do they represent? What issues are they concerned about? | How Have they wielded power in the policy making process? What legislation have they worked for or against? | Why are they so powerful? From where do they draw their influence? |
| --Association of CEOs of leading US companies working to promote sound public policy and a thriving US economy  --Energy and Environment  --Immigration  --Tax and Fiscal Policy  --Smart Regulation  --Information and Technology  --Health and Retirement  --Education and Workforce | --Press Conference and statement “Taking Action on Energy” and “Create, Sustain 2013”  --Report “Get Immigration Reform Done”  --News release November 5, 2014 “We Want Action; We Want Problems Solved” telling officials to get to work!  --etc… | --Members are the CEOs of leading US companies and have over 16 million employees (meaning…they have a lot of power in the jobs market!)  --Member groups represent 1/3 of the total value of the US Stock Market (they get pi$$ed and they have some power to wield!)  --Member companies create $7.4 trillion in revenues each year (that’s 44% of GDP! They have a bit of influence) |

**You will present these sheets on Friday! No need to type them out, just write legibly!**

[**https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbsRxWZK0cQ**](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=cbsRxWZK0cQ)

[**http://thecolbertreport.cc.com/videos/zkum1o/mark-mckinnon**](http://thecolbertreport.cc.com/videos/zkum1o/mark-mckinnon)