

Name:

Speed Dating: Getting to Know Interest Groups

You are a leader of an American interest group. Your task is to research your interest group (you will produce a resume that will be graded), and seek out other interest groups with whom you have similar goals (lobbying, litigation, legislation, electioneering). During the speed dating you will have about 4 minutes to share your story and to listen to the story of another interest group leader. At the signal, you will move and speak with another leader. Take notes and decide which interest groups best help/support your agenda.

Use the interest group's website, Opensecrets.org, and other scholarly sites for your and include them on the back of your resume as a Works Consulted page (in the appropriate format). Do not use Wikipedia.

Most of these answers will be part of your resume, but if not, you still need to be able to answer the following:

1. What are the goals of your interest group?
2. How do you best achieve your goals: lobbying, litigation, legislation, electioneering?
3. What success(s) and/or failure(s) does your group have in the public policy arena? If you have been successful getting major legislation passed (or blocked), describe this victory. If you have been successful getting using litigation to achieve your goals, describe a successful court case. If you have been successful electioneering, discuss how you achieved this victory.
4. How much money does your interest group have and how is the money used?
5. Include a quotation to best describe your interest group.
6. An appropriate pick up line for your interest group leader/organization.

Interest groups:

Americans for Prosperity
American Association for Retired People
American Hospital Association
American Medical Association
American Federation of Teachers
Blue Cross/Blue Shield
Chamber of Commerce
Chevron Corporation
Motion Picture Association of America
MoveOn.org
National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League
National Association for the Advancement of Colored People
National Association of Broadcasters
National Association of Realtors
National Education Association
National Right to Life Committee
National Organization of Women
National Rifle Association
Sierra Club

Full Name of Interest Group
Website (of organization)

Objective (3 pts):

- Write a few sentences for the goal(s) of your group.

Summary/Background Information (4 pts):

- Write a paragraph of the group's history and significance in the public policy arena of the United States. If you directly quote from the website, use quotation marks and use notes to cite in Chicago Turabian style.

Major Accomplishments (8 pts):

- What legislation did your group help pass/block?
- What Supreme Court cases did you support/oppose? If litigation is your group's major tactic, then briefly explain a few key cases.
- How much money does your group have/spend on lobbying?
- What PAC does your group have and where does the PAC money go?
- *You need to use complete sentences to answer this area within bullet points.*

Memorable Quotation or motto (2 pts):

- Place a memorable quotation/motto by your group here.

Pick-up Line (2 pts)

- What do you say to convince/woo legislators to support your cause?

You only need a Works Consulted Page (in the correct format) if you use sources beyond your group's website, Opensecrets.org, or our textbook—no WIKIPEDIA