

## **Participation in Government**

Mr. Van Ells

Room 736

### **Interest Groups – A Web Based Research Project**

Use the attached list or the special web site:

[www.jvanells.info](http://www.jvanells.info)

Interest groups play a very important part in American politics. They represent the wishes and interests of everyday citizens like you and me as well as large multi-national corporations. Interest groups are effective because they can combine the motivation, energy and financial resources of many.

Interest groups perform various functions but most importantly they attempt to influence government. The purpose of this project is to focus in on interest groups so we can learn what they are, what they represent and how they operate.

Complete a short typewritten paper (**use question and answer format**). The paper must answer all of the following questions:

1. What is your interest group?
2. Where is the interest group based?
3. Who is the current President of the group?
4. When, where and why was it founded? Who founded it?
5. What is the purpose, issue of your interest group?
6. How many members does your interest group have?
7. What does the interest group do for its members (member services)?
8. What issues does it support? How does it justify (defend) that position?
9. What issues does it oppose? How does it justify (defend) that position?
10. What legislation has it supported and opposed in recent years?

## **Interest Groups**

[AFL-CIO](#)

[American Association for People with Disabilities \(AAPD\)](#)

[American Association of Retired Persons \(AARP\)](#)

[American Association of University Women \(AAUW\)](#)

[American Bankers Association \(ABA\)](#)

[American Bar Association](#)

[American Civil Liberties Union](#)

[American Chemical Society](#)

[American Conservative Union](#)

[American Farm Bureau Federation](#)

[American Federation of State, County, and Municipal Employees \(AFSCME\)](#)

[American Federation of Teachers \(AFT\)](#)

[American Legion](#)

[American Petroleum Institute](#)

[American Postal Workers Union \(APWU\)](#)

[Amnesty International](#)

[Catholics United for Life](#)

[Center for Democracy and Technology](#)

[Christian Coalition](#)

[Citizens Against Government Waste](#)

[Citizens for Tax Justice](#)

[Communications Workers of America \(CWA\)](#)

[EMILY's List](#)

[Empower America](#)

[Environmental Defense Fund](#)

[Family Farm Alliance](#)

[Federation For American Immigration Reform \(FAIR\)](#)

[Feminist Majority Foundation Online](#)

[Friends of the Earth](#)

[Greenpeace USA](#)

[Habitat for Humanity](#)

[International Association of Machinists & Aerospace Workers](#)

[International Brotherhood of Teamsters](#)

[International Union of Bricklayers & Allied Craftworkers](#)

[League of Conservation Voters](#)

[League of Women Voters](#)

[National Abortion and Reproductive Rights Action League \(NARAL\)](#)

[National Air Traffic Controllers Association](#)

[National Association for the Advancement of Colored People \(NAACP\)](#)

[National Association for Public Interest Law](#)

[National Association of Broadcasters](#)

[National Association of Home Builders \(NAHB\)](#)

[National Coalition for the Homeless](#)

[National Education Association \(NEA\)](#)

[National Gay and Lesbian Task Force](#)

[National Organization for Women \(NOW\)](#)

[National Resources Defense Council](#)

[National Right to Life](#)

[National Rifle Association](#)

[National Rural Electric Cooperative Association](#)

[National Water Resources Association](#)

[People For the American Way](#)

[People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals](#)

[Planned Parenthood](#)

[Public Citizen](#)

[Public Interest Research Groups](#)

[Service Employees International Union](#)

[Sheet Metal Workers International Association](#)

[Sierra Club](#)

[Society for Human Resource Management](#)

[Taxpayers Against Fraud](#)

[United Autoworkers Workers \(UAW\)](#)

[United Food and Commercial Workers \(UFCW\)](#)

[United Mine Workers of America \(UMW\)](#)