Interest Group Assignment
(40 Points)

As was discussed in class there are a huge number of interest groups in this country. These interest groups range from groups that represent very local issues, such as the Cape Girardeau County Area Medical Society, to groups, such as the AARP, that deal with national issues.

This assignment will require you to use the internet to identify an interest group that you choose and analyze that interest groups membership, organization, purpose and methods. This assignment is designed to address University Studies Objectives 1, 2, and 3. This assignment will be worth a total of 40 points. Follow the below listed directions in completing this assignment.

DIRECTIONS

STEP ONE:

Conduct an internet search to identify at least ten (10) different interest groups that address a(n) interest(s) that affects you in some way. That may include an interest group that addresses issue(s) important to your home community, or the profession you do or will belong to, or maybe it is a group that simply addresses an issue that you feel is important.

Bring a TYPED (not hand written) list of those groups, and the URL of their homepage, with you to class on 7/22/09. I am going to assign you one of those ten (10) interest groups on which you will conduct additional research. No two students will be allowed to work on the same interest group. This portion of the assignment will be worth 5 points. You will be informed of the Interest Group you are assigned to research the following class period (7/23/09).

STEP TWO:

After you are assigned a specific interest group you are to write a short paper (two or three, double-spaced pages, 12 point font, with one-inch margins) addressing the following aspects of that interest group:

1. The interest that this group addresses.
2. Which of the three reason, as discussed in class, would be the main reason people would join this group? (Material, Solidary or Purposive) Make sure you explain why you believe the reason you have identified is correct.
3. At what level(s) does this group work (i.e. local, state, national or international)? Be sure you give examples of the work that your group does at each level, if any.
4. In what category of interest group would you place this group AND why?
   a. Use the five categories found in the chapter nine power point.
5. How does this group attempt to affect its given area of public policy? Be specific, identify some of the activities that you group has engaged in to affect public policy.
6. How does this interest group attempt to overcome the Free-Rider Problem? Be specific!
7. EXTRA CREDIT: (additional 20 points)(an additional page added to the paper)
   a. Provide a discussion of what governmental organizations (make sure the organizations you talk about are actual government organizations) this group might develop relationships with AND why the group would want to have a strong relationship with these organizations.

THIS ASSIGNMENT WILL NEED TO BE TURNED IN VIA TURNITIN.COM BY 11:00 AM ON WEDNESDAY, JULY 29TH, 2009
GRADING TEMPLATE

Interest Group Paper
(40 Points)

_____ Out of 5 --------------------------- Interest Group List (Part I)

_____ Out of 5 --------------------------- What Interest Do They Serve

_____ Out of 5 --------------------------- At What Level Does the Group Work

_____ Out of 10 -------------------------- What Category and WHY

_____ Out of 10 -------------------------- How Does the Group Attempt to Affect Pub. Policy

_____ Out of 5 -------------------------- How Do They Deal With Free Riders

Total Score
_____ Out of 40