INTEREST GROUP ASSIGNMENT
PS 103 – Fall 2010
(40 Points)

GOAL/PURPOSE OF ASSIGNMENT:

This assignment is designed to; 1) ensure the student can distinguish between interest groups and other groups/organizations that are involved in public policy development, 2) ensure the student understands the role that interest groups play in the overall public policy process, 3) ensure the student can clearly demonstrate an understanding of the variety of ways interest groups attempt to influence a specific area of public policy, and 4) ensure the student can effectively gather, interpret and analyze information about their specific interest group.

DIRECTIONS:

Each student is to answer the following questions as they relate to the INTEREST GROUP that they identified and was assigned. The answers should be presented in complete sentences, and ensure all aspects of each question are addressed. Your paper should be at least three full-pages in length. Make sure the paper is written in accordance to the expectations as outlined in the “Writing Expectations” handout available on the course website. This paper should be written in sections. In other words, each of the questions listed below should be the heading for its own section, with that question being answered under that heading, and the next section addressing the next question…and so and so forth. I have attached an example at the end of these directions.

Questions and Scoring Criteria:

1) Provide a typed list of ten (10) interest groups and their organization’s web site address to Mr. Sexton, so that he can assign one of those groups to you. This is done to ensure no two students research the same group. (5 Points)
2) Explain the primary reason that this interest group exists (intrinsic, material, social). Make sure you clearly explain, in your own words why you think it is the group’s primary reason for existing. (5 Points)
3) Describe the issue(s) that this interest group is interested in influencing. Best way to do this would highlight/explain several current issues that your group is dealing with today. (5 Points)
4) What is the geographic region that this interest group operates? Local, state, regional, national or international. Provide examples of activities this group would engage in at each of the above noted levels (if appropriate). (5 Points)
5) Describe/explain at least three (by using specific examples) ways that your interest group attempts to influence public policy. Keep in mind the six activities that we discussed in class. (10 Points)
6) Describe how the group addresses the free-rider problem. Be specific in your answer. (5 points)
7) List several governmental organizations this group might choose to develop close relationships with, and explain why you think these relationships would be important to this group. (5 points)
Primary Reason That The Missouri Primary Care Association Exists

It is my opinion that the Missouri Primary Care Association exists for both intrinsic and material reasons. It is intrinsic because many members of the MO-PCA join because they feel it is important that all people in Missouri have access to affordable, quality primary health care. In addition, I believe the MO-PCA exists to ensure that Community Health Centers around the state of Missouri are treated in a way that allows them to be profitable, while at the same time providing costly primary health care services to those that are less fortunate.

Issues that the Missouri Primary Care Association Attempt to Influence

The MO-PCA is most interested in health care policies that would most likely affect the low- to moderate-income individuals. Some of the specific issues that the MO-PCA are currently dealing with include implementation of Electronic Medical Records, the cost of pharmaceuticals and increasing access for the low- to moderate-income population, increased use of telemedicine technology, attracting and retaining medical professionals in rural and inner-city urban setting, and increasing access to mental health services for the low- to moderate-income population.

Each of the questions you need to answer can be listed as a heading as I did above for the first two questions. Then provide your clearly throughout, written answer to each question under that heading.