

FP.C&G.3.6

Explain ways laws have been influenced by political parties, constituents, interest groups, lobbyists, the media and public opinion (e.g., extension of suffrage, labor legislation, civil rights legislation, military policy, environmental legislation, business regulation and educational policy).

Students will understand:

1. Building constituencies plays an important role when trying to influence laws and policies.
2. Laws and policies are often motivated and influenced by factors other than the public interest, common good, and the protection of individual rights.
3. Interest groups often encourage the development of laws and policies in order to further specific agendas that reflect group priorities.

Students will know:

1. Students will know how individuals and interest groups influence public policy. (Individual responsibility) How lobbyists function within and influence the legislative system at all levels of government. (structure of government)
2. Ways in which the media plays an important role in influencing public opinion and the direction of public policy. (Individual rights as set forth in the Bill of Rights, individual responsibility)
3. Public opinion may influence the creation of laws.
4. How business, industry, and other interest groups affect the development of laws, policies, and regulations.