

# LOBBYING

## I. GOALS

- Define lobbying and special interest groups
- Explain where the term lobbying originates
- State positives and negatives of lobbying in government

## II. METHODOLOGY AND TIMING

### A. LECTURE AND ACTIVITY

- Start the lesson with a class discussion on how to influence government. Ask:
  - Do you think that politicians make decisions based on their own thoughts only or do they try to figure out what the people want?
  - How do politicians know what decisions to make?
  - If you wanted something or thought there was a real need for something, how would you go about getting a politician to agree with you?
  - REMEMBER TO USE THE WHITEBOARD!
- **Play the [video](#). Pause at time marker 0:54.**
- Ask students to write down a brief argument for or against paid lobbying. This should be a single sentence stating whether paid lobbying should be allowed and why (or why not).
- Instruct all those that said it should be allowed to raise their hands; have a volunteer read his or her reasoning. Allow others to add to this reasoning if desired.
- Do the same for those who said it should not be allowed.
- **Continue the [video](#), pausing at time marker 2:13. Discuss:**
  - Has anyone changed their minds on whether paid lobbying is okay based on what you've learned here?
  - What would you like to lobby the government about? Have students write this down as well as volunteers share their ideas.
- Give your students a few minutes to start a pros/cons chart on their own paper. Ask them to include as many items on each side of the chart as they can.
- **Continue [video](#) pausing at time marker 3:46.** Ask if the video brought up cons to lobbying that your students had not thought of before. Encourage your students to update their pros/cons chart based on what they have learned.
- **Finish the [video](#).**



- Ask if anyone has changed position on paid lobbying. If anyone says yes, ask that person to explain.

### III. MATERIALS

- Video (embedded)
- Pro/Con Handout

### IV. FEEDBACK