**Unit 8 Quiz Study Guide**

**Vocabulary Terms**

**Interest Group:** People who are concerned with some particular issue or part of the government and who try to influence legislators or to act in their favor.

**Watchdog:** A person or group who acts as a protector or guardian.

**Public Opinion:** Views prevalent among the general public.

**Lobbyist:** A person who conducts activities in order to influence public officials.

**Political action committee:** An independent political organization that seeks to promote the cause of a particular interest group, usually through raising money and campaigning to elect candidates who support the group's views.

**Interest Groups**

* Interest groups attempt to influence the government directly on **particular issues.**
	+ Unlike a political party, interest groups tend to focus on a specific issue or area, rather than on all the problems facing government leaders.
* **Lobbyists** represent interest groups in their attempts to influence government
	+ Interest groups hire lobbyists who speak to state legislators, members of Congress, or other government officials in order to influence new legislation or government regulations.
* **Electioneering:** Interest groups and their lobbyists also help politicians get elected or re-elected. In 1974, a law was passed that allowed each interest group to form its own political action committee (PAC). PAC’s can provide larger sums of money to political candidates than individuals are permitted to contribute.

**The Media**

* Provides **information** on both parties
* Focuses **public attention** on particular issues
* Provides **in-depth coverage** on national issues

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