**Interest Groups Research Project**

**Due Thursday, December 22**

**Email a link to hoetzleinsirmans@calvertnet.k12.md.us**

Research an interest group that tries to influence public policy. You may not do the same interest group as another student in this class. Next, be prepared to present a Prezi in class on Thursday, December 22 detailing what you have discovered about the interest group you have been assigned.  The following issues must be addressed.

·        What issue or issues does the interest group support or oppose?

·        How does the interest group impact public policy?  Is there a PAC attached to the group?

·        Name and discuss at least one current/recent bill or proposal that the interest group supports/opposes.

·        What is the demographic makeup of the membership?

·        Explain the history of the specific interest group, i.e. what was the impetus for it forming?

·        How is the interest group financed? Annual dues, donations, fundraising efforts (be specific)

·        How does it spend money on lobbying efforts?  How did you find this out?

·        Is the interest group aligned with one political party more than another?  Why?

·        Is the interest group aligned more with a liberal or conservative ideology?  Why?

·        Do they endorse candidates?  If so, what major political officials are supported by the interest group?

·        Does the interest group generally donate to candidates of the Democratic or Republican parties?  How do you know this?

·        How does the interest group inform its members about current legislation?

·        Is the interest group successful?  Explain why or why not.

·        What is a rival interest group of the one you have selected?

·        Which is more successful and why?

Each of the fifteen (15) bullets is valued at five (3) points equaling forty-five (45) points.  In addition, five (5) points will be given for breadth, depth, and accuracy of research findings, as well as the overall design and organization of your Prezi.

TOTAL POINTS: 50 PRODUCT

**General Information:**

Open secrets – [www.opensecrets.org](http://www.opensecrets.org)

Project Vote-Smart - http://votesmart.org/interest-groups

**Abortion**

NARAL Pro-Choice America

National Right to Life Committee

**Agriculture and Food**

American Farm Bureau Federation

**Animals and Wildlife**

American Humane Society

Sierra Club

**Arts, Entertainment, and History**

American Library Association

Americans for the Arts Action Fund

**Business and Consumers**

Maryland Business for Responsive Government

Public Citizen’s Congress Watch

**Civil Liberties and Civil Rights**

American Civil Liberties Union

Common Cause

**Economy**

United States Chamber of Commerce

United States Women’s Chamber of Commerce

**Education**

American Federation of Teachers

National Education Association

**Energy**

Citizens for Global Solutions

Clean Water Action

**Environment**

Clean Water Action

League of Conservation Voters

**Fiscally Conservative**

Blue Dog Coalitions

Cato Institute

**Fiscally Liberal**

People for the American Way

Progressive Change Campaign Commiittee

**Food Processing and Sales**

Food Policy Action

United Food and Commercial Workers

**Foreign Affairs**

J Street

Citizens for Global Solutions

**Guns**

Brady Campaign to Stop Gun Violence

National Rifle Association

**Health and Health Care**

American Association for Retired Persons

American Medical Association

**Marriage, Family, and Children**

Christian Coalition of America

National Parent Teacher Association

**Minors and Children**

Children’s Defense Fund

Save the Children Action Network

**Science**

American Association for the Advancement of Science

Center for Science in the Public Interest

**Sexual Orientation and Gender Identity**

Human Rights Campaign

National Organization for Marriage

**Women**

Maggie’s List

National Organization for Women

**Veterans**

American Veterans