

Interest Articulation

What is Interest Articulation

- Interest Articulation takes many forms; such as, making a request to a city council member, or forming interest groups to be promote political interest.

Forms of Citizen Interest Articulation

Form	Scope of Interest	Degree of Pressure on Elites
Voting in elections	Broad, collective decision on government leaders and their programs	Modest pressure but unfocused
Informal group, social movement	Collective action focused on common interest	High Pressure
Direct contact	Deals with specific, personal problems	Low pressure
Protest Activity	Highly expressive support for specific interests	High pressure

Examples of Interest Groups

- Anomic Group: A spontaneous group of working class individuals living in the same neighborhood
- Nonassociational group: The working class collective
- Institutional Group: The labor department within the government
- Associational Group: A labor union

Interest Group Systems

- **Pluralist:** Multiple groups represents a single interest. Membership in groups is noncompulsory and limited. Groups often have a loose or decentralized organizational structure. A clear separation exist between interest groups and the government.
- **Democratic:** A single peak association normally represents each social interest. Membership in the peak association is often compulsory and nearly universal. Peak associations are centrally organized and direct the actions of their members. Groups are often systematically involved in making and implementing policy.
- **Controlled:** There is a single group for each sector. Membership is often compulsory. Each group is normally hierarchically organized. Groups are controlled by the government or it's agents in order to mobilize support for government policy.

Access to the Influential

- To be effective, interest groups must be able to reach key policymakers through channels of political access. Different political systems have various ways in which to respond to these interest. If only one channel is available, it is difficult for all groups to have access. Examples of these channels of political access include the mass media; television, radio, newspapers, and magazines.

Key Terms

- Anomic Group
- Associational Group
- Channels of Political Access
- Civil Society
- Collective Action Problems
- Controlled Interest Group Systems
- Democratic Corporatist Interest Group Systems
- Institutional Group
- Interest Articulation
- Mass Media
- Nonassociational group
- Personal interest contacts
- Pluralist interest group systems
- Political terror tactics
- Protest