The student will examine multiple perspectives on public and current issues.
SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 1: Students will identify groups that influence public perspectives.
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Individuals, interest groups, and political parties each present different perspectives on the direction that government should take. Students should be familiar with the rights, powers and responsibilities of each group types. Students do not need to know the perspectives of any individual or group type because the public perspectives will be presented in the questions.
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**individual** - a person

**interest group** - people who are concerned with a particular issue or part of the government and who try to influence legislators or to act in their favor, also known as a special interest group

**political party** - an organization that seeks to gain political power by electing members to public office so that their political ideas can be reflected in public policies
SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will use scenarios to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups.
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Below are some scenarios that help to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups:

a) A local army base is closing and the city council has not decided how to use the land that will become available. City residents representing different interest groups hand out flyers to persons attending the city council meeting expressing multiple perspectives on the best use of the land.
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a) A local army base is closing and the city council has not decided how to use the land that will become available. City residents representing different interest groups hand out flyers to persons attending the city council meeting expressing multiple perspectives on the best use of the land.

b) The Democratic and Republican parties both address health care issues in their party’s platform.
SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 2: Students will use scenarios to understand the reaction or perspective of different groups.

Below are some scenarios that help to understand the reaction or *perspective* of different groups:

a) A local army base is closing and the *city council* has not decided how to use the land that will become available. City residents representing different *interest groups* hand out flyers to persons attending the city council meeting expressing multiple perspectives on the best use of the land.

b) The *Democratic* and *Republican* parties both address health care issues in their party’s *platform*.

c) Two interest groups place advertisements in a local newspaper taking opposing sides on whether the Florida Constitution should be *amended* to change the size of the *state Supreme Court*. 
SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will examine how multiple perspective shape participation in the political process.
**SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 3**: Students will examine how multiple perspective shape participation in the political process.

**Citizen** participation in the political process is shaped by multiple perspectives. Citizens will work independently, join **interest groups** or join **political parties**, in order to present their perspectives on the direction that **government officials** and **political institutions** should take.
SS.7.C.2.13 Benchmark Clarification 3: Students will examine how multiple perspective shape participation in the political process.

Citizen participation in the political process is shaped by multiple perspectives. Citizens will work independently, join interest groups or join political parties, in order to present their perspectives on the direction that government officials and political institutions should take.

Individuals influence multiple perspectives to shape participation in the political process when they exercise their First Amendment rights and their right to vote. First Amendment rights give individuals the right to express their political views through speech, press, peaceable assembly and petitioning the government. Voting rights give individuals the chance to express public perspectives by choosing one candidate or policy question over others.
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Interest groups influence multiple perspectives to shape participation in the political process when they use their First Amendment rights to peaceable assembly, free speech and petitioning the government. Interest groups form because of a common interest or goal and attempt to influence people by working together in support of that goal or cause. Interest groups can work with members of Congress or with other elected legislators to get laws passed (this is usually referred to as lobbying), and can educate members of their interest group on key issues and causes that they wish those members to support. Through lobbying, directing campaign contributions (money raised for candidates, political parties or issues during the time of an election) and shaping public opinion, interest groups present multiple perspectives in their participation in the political process.
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Political parties also influence multiple perspectives to shape participation in the political process. A political party is a group of citizens or voters with similar views on public issues who work to put their ideas into government action and who band together to elect a candidate. Competing political parties give voters a choice among candidates and ideas.
citizen - a legal member of a state and/or country

government officials - elected, appointed, or hired members of the government

individual - a person

interest group - people who are concerned with a particular issue or part of the government and who try to influence legislators or to act in their favor, also known as a special interest group

lobbying - to conduct activities in order to influence government officials

political institutions – the decision making elements of government

political party - an organization that seeks to gain political power by electing members to public office so that their political ideas can be reflected in public policies

public opinion - views of the general public

public policy - government actions in the form of laws