

Benchmark 2.10

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Core Idea	Examine the impact of various forces on monitoring and influencing government.
Focal Point #1	Monitoring and influencing government are two separate activities.
Focal Point #2	The methods used by the media to monitor and influence government identify the watchdog role in the Content Focus terms.
Focal Point #3	The methods that interest groups use to monitor and influence government are identified in the Content Focus terms (lobbying, lobbyist, political action committee). Individuals, also identified in the benchmark, form interest groups.
Potential Concerns	“Special interest group” is a Content Focus term in Benchmark 3.8/3.9. “Interest group” (2.10 Benchmark), “Special Interest Group” (3.8 Content Focus) and “Special Interest” (2.10 Content Focus) are synonymous.
Sample Item	The correct response is the only option that involves direct contact with government (petition).

