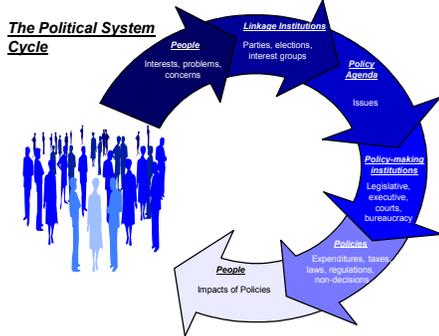


Political System Cycle

While viewing the PowerPoint presentation, complete the information provided below.

Slide 1



There are _____ steps to the Political System Cycle. The system demonstrates how the _____ influence government through their _____.

The fact that it begins, ends, and begins again with the people demonstrates the concept of _____.

Slide 2

Step 1:

People have interests and concerns about their surroundings or an issue they believe should be taken care of.

Political Issue: A political issue arises when people disagree about a problem or about a public policy choice made to combat a problem. It involves some problem that people would like government to take care of or fix.

The first step in the process begins with the _____. Citizens have a problem that they want government to solve, so they _____ the government requesting their concern be taken care of. A _____ arises when people disagree about a problem or about a _____ choice to combat a problem.

Slide 3

Step 2:

The people form various types of groups to get their point cross to the government.

A Linkage Institution is any group, organization, or method of informing members of government about your feelings about issues that concern you

- 1) **Political Parties:** These are groups of people with similar general interests and concerns, usually dealing with more than one issue.
- 2) **Elections:** People will vote in the way that reflects their position on particular issues. They will vote for candidates that support their position on certain issues.
- 3) **Media:** The media is the most visible way of having your opinions heard, therefore it will be noticed by the most people. Media includes television, radio, newspapers, magazines, billboards, and the internet.
- 4) **Interest Groups:** These are groups of people who share the same opinion on a particular issue. These people will get together to pressure public officers to pass laws the way these people want. They use their vote as a threat.
- 5) **Polls and Petitions:** People will express their opinions about particular issues by conducting surveys and signing papers that state there are other people who feel the same way.

In order to get their ideas to government, the people must use _____.

Linkage institutions are groups, organizations or institutions that _____ people and their ideas to the people in government that can make a difference.

There are a variety of Linkage Institutions.

Slide 4

Step 3:

The people, through their linkage institutions, convince their congress-person to support their policy

The hope is that the ideas and concerns of the people become important enough for _____ to take seriously and do something about. The _____ includes all of the issues that the government will look into to decide which they should try to fix.

Slide 5

Step 4: Congress and the President (and sometimes the courts) adopt the policy the people have proposed.

Policy-Making Institutions: The United States Constitution establishes 2 policy making institutions:
1) Congress 2) The President

Today there are INFORMALLY 4 policy making institutions:

1) Congress 2) The President

3) **The Courts:** The courts interpret laws and, at times, can adjust them to mean new or different things (see Marbury v. Madison, 1803 - Judicial Review).

4) **Bureaucracy:** This is the system of agencies and departments that regulate certain aspects of the government's duties. These agencies are created by laws and are given the power to carry out their duties in any way necessary to uphold the law.



If the issue is thought to be important enough, one of the _____ will take up the issue. According to the _____, there are _____ policy making institutions - _____ and _____. Congress can make policies by _____, while the President makes policy by finding ways to _____.

There are two "unofficial" policy-making institutions - _____ and _____. The Courts can influence policy by making rulings in court decisions that help _____. The bureaucracy make policies by _____ passed by Congress.

Slide 6

Step 5:

Carrying out the particular policy has an impact on the people. This may mean an increase in taxes, a change in the standard of living, inflation, or any number of things.



The goal of the process is _____ that will try to solve the problem that the people had at the beginning. By asking the government to make a change inevitably means that there will be a change in _____, _____, or some other part of society.

Slide 7

Step 6: The impact of the new policy affects many people and the people will respond by raising concerns of their own. Thus the cycle begins all over again.

Policy Impacts: Having a policy implies that there is a desired goal. People who raise a policy issue want more than promises, they want a policy that works.

Success??? The success of a policy is measured by how well the policy achieves its goal v. its cost. It is a trade off that is made by the government and the people. Depending on the costs of the policy, the cycle can begin all over again.



The changes caused by the new policy will have an impact on the _____. Ultimately, it is the _____ who will decide if the policy is a success. The people will determine the success by comparing _____ of the new policy against the _____ of the policy. The costs may be in money, but it could also be in how much people do not like the changes made to society. If people are unhappy, they will _____ in order for them to make additional changes, hence the process continues over and over.