

**Lesson Title: Follow the Money**  
Handout #2: Role of Money Investigation

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Period \_\_\_\_\_

Today you will be using Open Secrets ([opensecrets.org](http://opensecrets.org)) to complete your investigation. Click on the Influence & Lobbying tab, look at the left-hand sidebar, and select Industries (<https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/>) and then select three sectors to complete the chart below.

Sector	Amount Contributed to Parties and Candidates	% to Democrats	% to Republicans

Navigate again to the left-hand sidebar menu to the Interest Groups List (<https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/slist.php>) to investigate three interest groups from both columns below, and then complete the chart below.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Civil Liberties Union (ACLU)</li> <li>National Association for the Advancement of Colored People (NAACP)</li> <li>Mothers Against Drunk Driving (MADD)</li> <li>Veterans of Foreign Wars (VFW)</li> <li>Sierra Club</li> </ul>		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>American Federation of Labor-Congress of Industrial Organizations (AFL-CIO)</li> <li>National Education Association (NEA)</li> <li>National Organization for Women (NOW)</li> <li>National Rifle Association (NRA)</li> <li>American Medical Association (AMA)</li> </ul>	
Interest Group	Amount of Money Spent	Which party received more contributions, Democrats or Republicans?	

Move to the Top Interest Groups to Congress item from the side-bar menu (<https://www.opensecrets.org/industries/mems.php>) and click on one “Interest Group” on the chart, and complete the following questions:

Who were the top three contributors and what are their political leanings?	1 _____	D / R
	2 _____	D / R
	3 _____	D / R

Look at “Totals” tab for that Interest Group. What do you notice?	
Why might this be happening?	

Look at the Money to Congress tab for that Interest Group. Who is receiving more money?		
Select “Top 20 Members” from the drop-down menu. Who are the top three Congress members receiving money?	1 _____	D / R
	2 _____	D / R
	3 _____	D / R

Navigate to the Contributors tab for that Interest Group. Who are the top three contributors?	1 _____	D / R
	2 _____	D / R
	3 _____	D / R
Navigate to the Recipients tab for that Interest Group. Who are the top three recipients?	1 _____	D / R
	2 _____	D / R
	3 _____	D / R