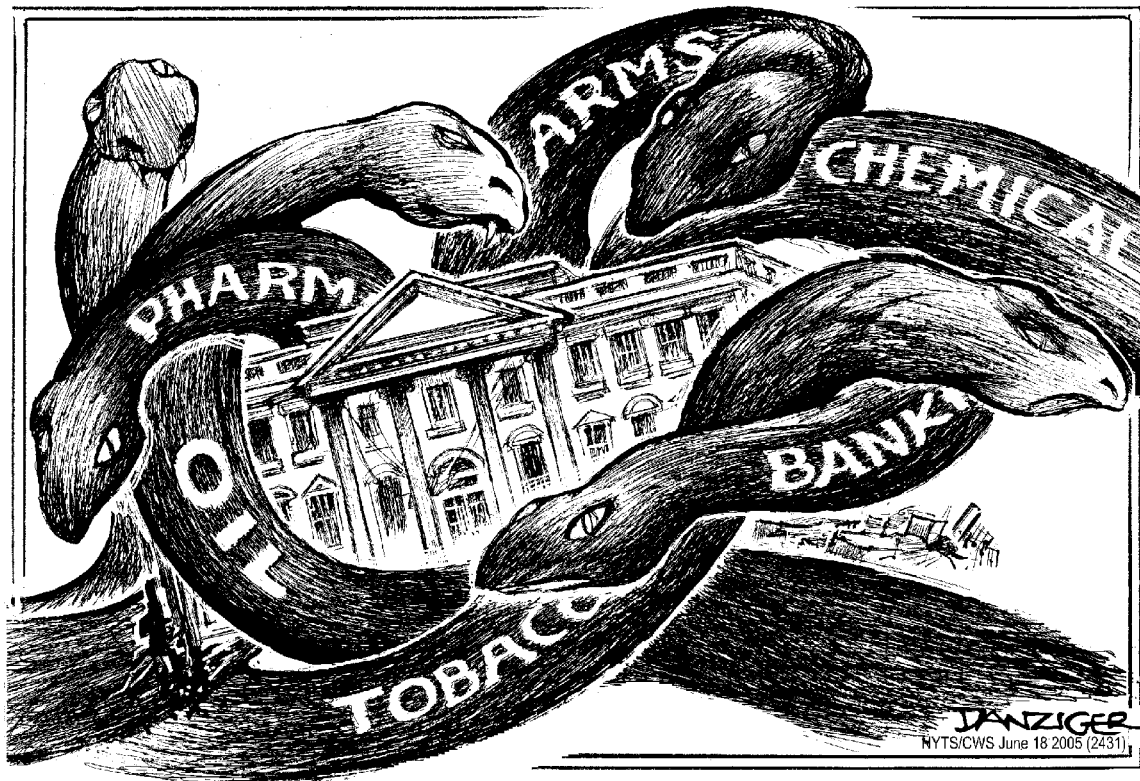


Cartoons for the Classroom

Presented by NIEonline.com and the Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)



The White House Illustrated



Strangled by “special interests”

Politicians are fond of accusing their rivals of pandering to “Special Interests.” It sounds sinister, but what are Special Interests? In Danziger’s cartoon, various industries are depicted as snakes pressing the White House. Not a very pretty picture. But any group that tries to affect governmental policy can be broadly defined as a Special Interest group. What about labor unions? Organizations that speak for people with disabilities? Groups like the American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) that speak for senior citizens? Environmental groups like Greenpeace? Isn’t there a Special Interest group that speaks for you?

Get out your newspaper

Gather a collection of political cartoons from your newspaper over the next two weeks. Using the Cartoon Evaluation Worksheet (available online at the NIE Website) analyze each cartoon and explain the issues addressed and determine the point of view of the artist.

Talking points

1. What Special Interest groups do you consider dangerous? List the groups we should worry about.
2. What Special Interest groups share your interests? What do they advocate? Make another list.
3. A search on Google for “Special Interests” yields about about 3,430,000 entries. Can you think of any group that doesn’t have a Special Interest group looking out for them?
4. How would you draw a cartoon that shows how Special Interest groups are beneficial?

Additional resources

Association of American Editorial Cartoonists (AAEC)
<http://editorialcartoonists.com/>

More by Jeff Danziger at CartoonArts International
<http://www.nytimes.com/cartoons.html>