



## 12th Grade Campaign Finance Inquiry

### Does Money Matter In Political Campaigns?

<b>New York State Social Studies Framework Key Idea &amp; Practices</b>	<b>12.G4 POLITICAL AND CIVIC PARTICIPATION:</b> There are numerous avenues for engagement in the political process, from exercising the power of the vote to affiliating with political parties to engaging in other forms of civic participation. Citizens leverage both electoral and non-electoral means to participate in the political process. ✔ <b>Gathering, Using &amp; Interpreting Evidence</b> ✔ <b>Civic Participation</b>
<b>Staging the Question</b>	Analyze correspondence between political parties and corporations/CEOs to determine if funding is tied to political favors.

Supporting Question 1	Supporting Question 2	Supporting Question 3	Supporting Question 4
Research Opportunity	Research Opportunity		
How much does it cost to become a member of Congress?	Where do politicians get their campaign contributions?	How do super PACs play a role in political campaigns?	Should the government limit contributions to political campaigns?
Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task	Formative Performance Task
List how much money members of Congress spent on their last campaigns.	Write 1–2 paragraphs explaining the ways that individuals and companies can donate to political candidates.	Create a graphic organizer that defines super PACs and explains their role in political campaigns.	Write a claim with evidence that answers the supporting question.
Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources	Featured Sources
<b>Source A:</b> Current members of the 114th Congress, 2015 <b>Source B:</b> Interactive campaign-finance map	<b>Source A:</b> Interactive guide to political donations <b>Source B:</b> Interactive congressional races <b>Source C:</b> Video clip from <i>The Colbert Report</i>	<b>Source A:</b> “ <i>Civics in a Minute</i> ”: <i>What is a Super PAC?</i> <b>Source B:</b> <i>Supreme Court Ruling Campaign Finance</i> <b>Source C:</b> “Super PAC Mania”	<b>Source A:</b> “The Cost of Campaigns” <b>Source B:</b> <i>Colbert Super PAC—Trevor Potter</i> <b>Source C:</b> Collection of essays on campaign finance

<b>Summative Performance Task</b>	<b>ARGUMENT</b> Does money matter in political campaigns? Construct an argument (e.g., detailed outline, poster, essay) that addresses the compelling question using specific claims and relevant evidence from contemporary sources while acknowledging competing perspectives.
<b>Taking Informed Action</b>	<b>EXTENSION</b> Create a public service announcement that addresses students’ stances on campaign-finance reform.  <b>UNDERSTAND</b> Research five current political campaign ads, noting who is funding each ad and whether the ad is in support of a candidate or against the candidate’s opponent. <b>ASSESS</b> Determine the extent to which candidates (once elected) vote in favor of those who have funded them. <b>ACT</b> Using assorted media platforms, create a presentation that conveys students’ views about campaign-finance reform.