

**Reading Assignments for Unit 8 Power Points**  
**Political Parties, Public Opinion, and the Media**

**Unit 8 Power Point Slides: 1 – 6 / Corresponding Text Pages: 260 – 265**

**Main Topics of these Power Points:**

1. The definition of political party
2. The roles of political parties
3. Different party systems
4. Benefits of political parties
5. Criticisms of political parties

**Unit 8 Power Point Slides: 7 – 11 / Corresponding Text Pages: 248 – 253**

**Main Topics of these Power Points**

1. Public opinion and public policy
2. How public opinion is viewed
3. How public opinion is expressed
4. How public opinion is formed

**Unit 8 Power Point Slides: 12 – 14 / Corresponding Text Pages: 250 – 253**

**Main Topics of these Power Points**

1. Mass media and politics
2. Criticisms of mass media and politics

**Unit 8 Power Point Slides: 15 – 21 / Corresponding Text Pages: 254 – 259**

**Main Topics of these Power Points**

1. Interest Groups
2. Special interest groups
3. Political Action Committees
4. Lobbying and lobby groups
5. Functions of interest groups
6. Benefits and criticisms of interest groups

**Unit 8 Review Questions: Students should be able to answer the following questions after having read the assigned text pages.**

1. What are political parties, and what role do they play in the political process?
2. How does the American two-party political system work?
3. How are political parties organized?
4. Do political parties serve the public good?
5. What is public opinion?
6. How is public opinion formed?
7. How does the media affect public opinion?
8. How is public opinion measured?
9. What are interest groups, and what role do they play in the political process?
10. What different types of interest groups exist?
11. How do interest groups work?
12. Do interest groups serve the public good?