Campaign Finance Website: www.opensecrets.org

Click on "Industries & Interest Groups." Click on "Industry."

    1. What industry sector gives the most?

    2. Why do you think that industry sector is giving so much money? (Hint: Clink on the hyperlink to see more detailed breakdowns)

    3. Which sectors give more to Republicans and which give more to Democrats? Why do you think they tend to give more to that particular party?

Click on "Elections and Fundraising". Click on "Congressional Elections." Choose California.

    4. Which House districts raised the most campaign funds? Also, why do you think there was so much spending going on in those districts?

    5. Why do you think some house districts ended up spending so little on campaigning?

Go to "Candidates & Officeholders". Click on "Get Local." Put in your zip code. Click on "Top Recipients."

    6. Who are some of the leading recipients for your neighborhood? Considering the contributions would you describe your neighborhood as being more Democratic or Republican?

Click on "Lobbying." Click on "Revolving Door."

    7. What is the revolving door?

Go to "Elections & Fundraising Date." Next click "Presidential Elections."
   8. How did the funding for Joe Biden compare with Donald Trump?

   9. How did the source of the Biden money differ from Trump? **(to find this, you need to click on the candidate names)**

Explore the lobbying section (choose "lobbying overview" from the dropdown menu under "lobbying.")
   10. What kind of increases in spending have occurred over the last two decades?

   11. How much are some of the leading corporations spending on lobbying? (look at the sidebar on the left- top spenders)

   12. Choose three of the top spenders. For each one put down what kind of policy you think they are trying to influence.

   13. Under "Elections & Fundraising Data" click "donor lookup." Find two high profile celebrities and identify to whom they contributed.

   14. Based upon your research, write a thesis statement about the role of money in politics. Avoid being overly simplistic (don't just say "money plays a large role in politics").