**Individuals and Influencing Government**

Directions: Please answer the following questions below in complete sentences.

1. Place each word or phrase into a sentence and indicate to me what each word or phrase means.
2. Voting
3. Petitioning government
4. Running for office
5. Who is allowed to vote in local, state and federal elections? What are the two basic requirements in order to allow individuals to vote in US elections?
6. Why do we have the right to petition our government? What benefit does it provide people who exercise the right to petition their government?
7. Sometimes, if you are really interested in politics, the best way to influence your government is to become a candidate for local, state and federal election. What does this mean? Who do you think is allowed to stand for office in the United States? (Who is allowed to run for office, and who is not?)
8. When someone runs for office in the United States, they have one of the best opportunities to influence their government? How is this possible? Explain in a few sentences, how you think running for office may help someone to influence their government?
9. If you run for office, how might the media and interest groups help you get elected? How might the media or interest groups prevent you from getting elected?