***Obama’s Deal* Video Guide**

*PBS Frontline*

[*http://video.pbs.org/video/1468710007/*](http://video.pbs.org/video/1468710007/)

***As/after you watch the movie, answer the following questions.***

1. Throughout the video, identify the **key actors in the lawmaking process**. Include both public officials and private citizens and groups.
2. Describe the Obama administration’s strategy for holding the May 2009 health care reform meeting with the president and all interested parties. What was the administration trying to accomplish, and what was it trying to avoid, based on lessons learned in the past?
3. What did Karen Ignagni and the health insurance **lobby** want? What did you learn about the role and impact of powerful and well-funded **lobbyists** on the policymaking process from Karen Ignagni and this group?

1. Identify and explain TWO **lobbying tactics** used during this process:
2. Who was Billy Tauzin? What was his role in health care bill? Explain the controversy.
3. ******Over the summer, how did **public opinion** shift Obama’s strategy?
4. How was the proposed legislation impacted by the death of Senator Edward Kennedy? Explain.
5. Explain the significance of the election of Senator Scott Brown in Massachusetts? How did he alone change the dynamics in the **Senate**?
6. Who was Dr. Margaret Flowers? Why was she angry with Senator Baucus during the **committee hearings**?
7. Why do you think President Obama eventually agreed to the demands from the various actors in the policymaking process (as some demands were contrary to the president’s previous proposals)? Do you think this type of political compromise is in the best interest of American citizens? Explain your answer.
8. Based on what you saw in the documentary, summarize the role of politics [not government] in the lawmaking process.