Iron Triangle Project

AP Government

DUE 3/26 by 5pm

Define Iron Triangle:

Research an example of an actual Iron Triangle within American democracy today. You may choose one from the list below or find your own

* Military Industrial Complex
* Agribusiness
* Social Security
* Pharmaceuticals

On a blank piece of paper (use the entire paper please!) draw your triangle (look online for many examples). Answer the following questions.

1. Clearly label the points of the triangle with specific agencies, committees and interest groups.
2. Indicate how each interacts with the other. What does the IG give the agency? How does the congressional committee help the IG? What does the agency do for congress?
3. Research specific examples of how this Iron Triangle has affected policy in the past.
   1. Amicus Curiae briefs?
   2. Funding?
   3. Loose/controversial regulation?
   4. Campaign finances?
4. Where does the term Iron Triangle come from? What does it mean? When does this model help the democratic process? When does it hurt the democratic process. Be specific.