

# Classroom Election



## OVERVIEW & PURPOSE

Participating in an election is an exciting activity as citizens decide who will represent them and make decisions for them. In addition to electing people we often will have opportunities to vote on issues facing our nation, state or community; these may be constitutional amendments, bonds for government services, or opinion questions. This lesson helps students learn how elections work through participating in a mock classroom election. You may also want to use this lesson to highlight the importance of participating in every election. If we don't vote, then others will make decisions that impact our lives.

## OBJECTIVES

Students will:

1. Participate in a mock election to elect a class representative or decide an issue facing the class.
2. Gain an understanding of how elections work
3. Understand the importance of participating in elections to influence decisions that impact our lives.

## MATERIALS NEEDED

1. List of registered voters (this may be your class roll)
2. Official Ballots
3. Election Official Name Tags
4. I Voted Stickers
5. Box used for a ballot box

## ACTIVITY

This activity allows your students an opportunity to participate in a mock election as a voter or as an election official.

1. Determine what type of election you will be holding, for example will you be electing a class representative or will you be deciding an issue with the class. You may want to have the class decide on a favorite activity or treat that will be had at a later date.
2. Prepare the ballots in advance of the election.
3. Ask for five volunteers to be the election officials and explain their responsibilities.
  - a. One will review the list of registered voters to ensure a voter is eligible to vote.
  - b. One will issue the ballot to each student if they are on the list of registered voters.
  - c. One will keep the ballot box safe and allow class members to deposit their ballots.
  - d. Two will serve as counting officials and will count the ballots at the end of the election.
4. Explain to the class what they will be voting on and that the decision of the majority of the class will be binding.
5. Have two of the election officials sit at a table with the list of registered voters and official ballots.
6. Have class members line up in front of the table and state their name to the election official who will check their name off of the list of registered voters and provide them with an official ballot.
7. The students may return to their desk to vote their ballot. Have the election official responsible for the ballot box go around the class to collect the ballots, give students an “I Voted” sticker, then deliver the box to the counting officials.
8. Have the counting officials count the ballots and announce the results.
9. You may have some students absent, this is a great opportunity to explain that not everyone chooses to vote in an election. Explain that even though these students weren't in class today they will still be impacted by the results of the election. This is what happens when adults choose not to participate in actual elections, they too are impacted by the decisions of those that did.

## Official Ballot

Please vote for one

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## Official Ballot

Please vote for one

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## Official Ballot

Please vote for one

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## Official Ballot

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## Official Ballot

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## Official Ballot

Please vote for one

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**Election Official**



**Election Official**



**Election Official**



I Voted Sticker - Print these on an adhesive paper

