

This activity involves a mock election to choose a school captain using the preferential voting method (see the voting section and **take action** activity in the *Levels 7 & 8 Student-Led Civics & Citizenship Education* resource for more information on the preferential voting method).

Everyone in the class will have a voter identity card and they will vote for the candidate who best aligns with their voter's identity.

1. Print and cut out the individual voter identity cards on page 4 of this document.
2. Randomly distribute voter identity cards to each student (and teacher) in your class or year level.
3. Make sure the number of voter identity cards in each of the different groups is **not** equal so that different percentages of voter identities make up the vote.
4. Explain to the class that the voter identity card provides information about the voter and it may influence how they vote.
5. Distribute a ballot paper to each student (and teacher) in the class.
6. Using the preferential method, ask everyone to choose their candidates by numbering each box, with 1 next to the candidate they most prefer, 2 next to the second and so on until all 5 boxes have a number, with 5 being the least preferred candidate. Everyone chooses their preferred candidates based on the best alignment with their voter identity card.

Not sure how to run an election? The [Victorian Electoral Commission](#) has a *Running an Election* resource and the [Australian Electoral Commission](#) has *Get Voting* to help run school elections.

Once you have completed the mock election, record the successful candidate below.

Election result:

Recount the votes but remove only the red identity voters from the count and record the successful candidate below.

Election result excluding red identity

Recount the votes but remove only the green identity voters from the count and record the successful candidate below.

Election result excluding green identity

Recount the votes but remove only the blue identity voters from the count and record the successful candidate below.

Election result excluding blue identity

Recount the votes but remove only the orange identity voters from the count and record the successful candidate below.

Election result excluding orange identity

Recount the votes but remove only the yellow identity voters from the count and record the successful candidate below.

Election result excluding yellow identity

Once you have completed the recounts excluding the different voter identity groups, compare the results.

Were the results different? If yes, why? If no, why weren't they different?

What is the impact on democratic processes if certain groups of people are excluded?

Extension activity: Think about the democratic processes in your school. Are they an example of representative democracy? Could they be more representative? If so, what action could you take to make your school a better example of representative democracy?

Print and cut out the individual voter identity cards and randomly distribute them to students in your class or year level. Make sure the number of voter identity cards in each of the different groups is **not** equal so that different percentages of voter identities make up the vote.

Voter identities:

Red more opportunities for extracurricular sports activities	Red more opportunities for extracurricular sports activities	Blue more study periods during the school day	Orange less restrictions in the dress code at school	Yellow better mental health support in class
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Ballot paper – print enough for each voter

Directions to voters: number candidates 1-5. Number ALL boxes.

Voter identity colour: _____

Candidate Sports plays for the state junior netball team and coaches the under-13s school netball team. Their focus for the school includes more choice in PE class and mandatory physical activity for all students each day.

Candidate Study has the highest marks in their class every year. Their focus for the school includes increased flexibility in the school timetable for students to do more independent study.

Candidate Fashion is interested in fashion design and makes their own clothes. Their focus for the school includes introducing a uniform that is practical, affordable and stylish.

Candidate Environment is vegan and is passionate about renewable energy. Their focus for the school includes introducing solar panels and a vertical herb garden to the school.

Candidate Music plays piano and performs at school assemblies. Their focus for the school includes art and music therapy classes as well as increasing the number of counselling sessions available for students.

Example of a completed ballot paper

Directions to voters: number candidates 1-5. Number ALL boxes.

Voter identity colour: BLUE

Candidate Sports plays for the state junior netball team and coaches the under-13s school netball team. Their focus for the school includes more choice in PE class and mandatory physical activity for all students each day.

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Candidate Study has the highest marks in their class every year. Their focus for the school includes increased flexibility in the school timetable for students to do more independent study.

1

Candidate Fashion is interested in fashion design and makes their own clothes. Their focus for the school includes introducing a uniform that is practical, affordable and stylish.

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Candidate Environment is vegan and is passionate about renewable energy. Their focus for the school includes introducing solar panels and a vertical herb garden to the school.

2

Candidate Music plays piano and performs at school assemblies. Their focus for the school includes art and music therapy classes as well as increasing the number of counselling sessions available for students.

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