



Conducting an election simulation

ACTIVITY



60 minutes
approximately

Operation simulation: Are you ready?

This activity introduces voters in training to polling station operations and to the roles of different election officers. As they prepare for the election simulation, participants will also have an opportunity to reflect on whether they are ready to make an informed and responsible decision.

OBJECTIVES

Learn what happens on polling day

Understand the roles of election officers

LINKS TO THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM

Subject area: Social sciences

Competency: Understand the organization of a society in its territory

Broad area of learning: Citizenship and community life

Focus of development: Promotion of the rules of social conduct
and democratic institutions

MATERIAL REQUIRED

- ✓ Copies of the Voters
in Training activity sheet

Operation simulation: Are you ready?**ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY**

Remind participants that it will soon be time for the simulation. Why not tell them about the first time you voted? Next, ask them if they ever went to a polling station with their parent or an adult they know. What do they remember from that experience?

A BIT OF THEORY

During an election, election officers play a key role in ensuring electors can confidently exercise their voting rights. Election officers must not influence the outcome of the vote. They need to carry out their duties in a neutral and impartial manner.

The following people work at a polling station.

The officer in charge of information and order oversees the polling place and ensures that the poll runs smoothly. As voting takes place, the officer in charge of information and order greets electors and directs them to the polling station where they can vote.

Deputy returning officers are responsible for confirming the identity of electors by checking valid identification documents. As voting takes place, deputy returning officers initial ballot papers, provide instructions to electors on how to vote and provide a ballot paper to each elector. Deputy returning officers take care of the ballot box. After the vote, they count the votes and close the ballot box.

Poll clerks confirm that electors are entered on the list of electors. As voting takes place, poll clerks assist the deputy returning officers. They look for each elector's name on the list of electors. Once voting is complete, poll clerks help deputy returning officer count the ballot papers.

Members of the identity verification panel get involved when electors are unable to confirm their identity using a valid identification document. After confirming that an elector is entered on the list of electors, the members of the identity verification panel will administer an oath to both the elector and the person attesting to the elector's identity.



Operation simulation: Are you ready?

SUGGESTED STEPS

- 1.** Referring to the section titled “A Bit of Theory,” introduce participants to the different people who work at a polling station.
- 2.** Based on the scenario chosen for your simulation, tell participants which election officials will be responsible for ensuring the simulation runs smoothly.
- 3.** After reading the *Simulation Preparation Guide*, review the following with participants:
 - Voting procedures;
 - When is a ballot paper considered valid? When should a ballot paper be rejected?
 - Reasons for keeping simulation results confidential until the results of the official election are released;
 - Publication of simulation results on the Élections Québec website.
- 4.** Are your voters in training ready to vote? Ask them to fill in the table on the activity sheet. This will help them determine whether they are ready to make an informed choice!

Operation simulation: Are you ready?**ACTIVITY SHEET**

Operation Simulation:

Are you ready?

You will soon be voting in an election simulation. Are you ready to have your say? To find out, respond to the statements in the table below.

	Yes	No
I know where and when I should vote.		
I know exactly who I will vote for.		
I'm familiar with the candidates and what they do.		
I have found information about the candidates in the media.		
I have been thinking about the changes and improvements I would like to see in my environment.		
In recent days, I have discussed politics with people close to me.		
I'm familiar with the terms <i>poll</i> , <i>ballot box</i> and <i>polling booth</i> .		
I can explain why I decided to vote for a specific candidate.		
I can name issues or projects that the candidates hope to focus on, if elected.		

Operation simulation: Are you ready?**Did you respond YES to all the statements?**

You're ready to go to the polls. Keep following what happens during and after the election. It's part of being a good citizen! Encourage your parents and people close to you to get out and vote on polling day. They should take advantage of this unique opportunity to have their voices heard.

Did you respond NO to one or more of the statements?

Find out more about the current election campaign, discuss it with your parents and friends, and take time to reflect on your concerns, beliefs and expectations. That will help you see things more clearly and make the right choice!



**Broaden
Your
Horizons**

What about your parents? Are they ready to vote?
Ask them to respond to the statements in the table,
just like you did!