

## Preparing to vote

### ACTIVITY



**45** minutes  
approximately

# Vote for me!

This activity helps voters in training reflect on and discuss the importance of learning about different candidates before voting. It will also help participants understand what information they need to form their own opinion.

## OBJECTIVE

*Recognize the importance of learning about different candidates.*

### LINKS TO THE QUÉBEC EDUCATION PROGRAM

**Subject area:** Languages

*Competency: Use language to communicate and learn*

**Broad area of learning:** Media literacy

*Focus of development: Understanding of media representations of reality*

**Cross-curricular competencies:** Use information and exercise critical judgment

### MATERIAL REQUIRED

- ✓ Copies of the Voters in Training activity sheet
- ✓ Five “Candidate” cards and one blank card, cut out in advance
- ✓ Five “Promise” cards and one blank card, cut out in advance

## ICEBREAKER ACTIVITY

Ask participants the following questions:

- What do you base your decisions on?
- What influences your opinions?
- Do you ever change your mind? Why?
- In your opinion, what factors should you consider when voting?

## A BIT OF THEORY

Voting is an important choice. Voting gives citizens an opportunity to express themselves on who should represent them and make decisions on their behalf.

However, it can be difficult to take a political stance, even during an election campaign. People often wonder what they should base their opinions on and whom they can trust. A wide variety of factors can influence your opinions. For instance, your point of view may be influenced by:

- your personality;
- your values;
- your experiences;
- your living environment;
- your friends, relatives, etc.;
- your knowledge (or lack of knowledge) about the candidates and what they are proposing.

## SUGGESTED STEPS

1. Hand out a “Candidate” card to four or five participants and ask them to take turns reading the cards out loud.
2. Take a vote by asking the other participants to pick their preferred candidate. Record the results on the board.
3. Hold a discussion with participants on what made them choose a particular candidate.
4. Next, give a “Promise” card to each of the participants who received a “Candidate” card. Ask them to take turns reading the contents of both cards.
5. Take a second vote by asking the other participants to pick their preferred candidate, taking the new information into account. Record the results on the board.
6. Start a discussion with participants. Ask them to compare the results of the first and second rounds of voting. Then ask them to complete the Voters in Training activity sheet, which includes the following questions:
  - a) Did the same candidate win both rounds of voting? Why?
  - b) Did you vote for the same person both times?
  - c) If so, why did you not change your mind? If not, why did you change your mind?

**CARDS TO CUT OUT**

**“Candidate” cards**

**Candidate 1**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I play a lot of sports. I'm also very involved in organizing sports activities in the community. I've raised money to support teams and allow them to compete in tournaments. Of course, I love hockey, our national sport!

**Vote for me!**

**Candidate 2**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I like to help others.

I created a homework help group for students with learning difficulties. I also devote a lot of time to my studies. I'm very proud of having helped develop community centre activities!

**Vote for me!**

**Candidate 3**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I really dislike taking risks. When I embark on a project, I prefer to exercise caution and weigh the pros and cons before making a decision.

In my spare time, I like to surf the web and play video games online with my friends.

**Vote for me!**

**Candidate 4**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I love adventure and discovering new things!

When I feel passionate about a project, I tend to dive right in. I collect art. I also know tons about music and play in a rock band.

**Vote for me!**

**Candidate 5**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I'm great at managing work teams and leading them to success.

I like to take initiative and I'm always ready to express my opinion.

I have a wide range of hobbies, including playing soccer, watching movies and painting.

**Vote for me!**

**Candidate 6**

Hello, my name is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Vote for me!**



**CARDS TO CUT OUT**

**“Promise” cards**

**I promise to...**

give students more time for lunch!  
That way, they can have more fun  
with their friends while their teachers  
take a break.

**Vote for me!**

**I promise to...**

use part of the playground  
to build a skateboard park.

**Vote for me!**

**I promise to...**

cancel all homework.  
If I'm elected, all work will need  
to be completed at school. That means  
students will have to stay at school  
for an extra hour every day!

**Vote for me!**

**I promise to...**

offer more sports.  
For example, I plan to create  
a hockey or volleyball team.

**Vote for me!**

**I promise to...**

hold a consultation with  
all students to discuss how  
we can improve our school.

**Vote for me!**

**I promise to...**

**Vote for me!**

**Vote for me!****ACTIVITY SHEET**

# Vote for me!

During this exercise, you and your classmates will be asked to vote for a candidate. The exercise will help you understand the importance of being well informed before voting.

**First round of voting**

My preferred candidate is: \_\_\_\_\_

**Second round of voting**

My preferred candidate is: \_\_\_\_\_

Compare the results of the two rounds of voting by answering the following questions.

a) Did the same candidate win both rounds of voting? Why, in your opinion?

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b) Did you vote for the same person both times?

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c) If so, why did you not change your mind? If not, why did you change your mind?

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**Broaden  
Your  
Horizons**

We are in the middle of an election period. Have you heard about people running for office who are looking for votes? Listen closely and take note of their election promises. Better yet, discuss the elections with your parents!