



**DEMOCRACITY**

# **Distribution of preferences module**



**AEC**

Australian Electoral Commission

## Distribution of preferences



This module is excellent to learn about election night and for pairing with a class election.



Students are transported to an AEC count centre where they help to conduct a distribution of preferences. Distribution of preferences is the process of excluding House of Representative candidates with the least number of votes and transferring those votes to other candidates. Through this process a candidate is elected.



### Learning outcomes

By the end of the first module, students will:

- Demonstrate how to distribute ballot papers based on 2nd and 3rd preferences.
- Identify why a candidate is excluded in each exclusion round.
- Describe what happens to the votes of a candidate that is excluded.
- Recognise that a candidate must get an absolute majority to be elected.



### Suggested extension knowledge and understanding activities

- Students research both preferential and first-past-the-post voting including what other countries use. Using this information, compare and contrast the different systems.



### Suggested extension application activities:

**UNIT OF WORK: Election day in action**

A good election encourages democratic decision making and a respected outcome. A good election is based on principles that ensure it is free and fair.

- Use the 'Unit of Work' in the election day module to conduct a class election.



### Supplementary links with AEC resources

**Links to other AEC education and information resources:**

- [Get Voting - school elections made easy](#)
- Get Voting: [Instructions for counting](#)
- AEC poster: [Counting House of Representatives Preferential voting](#)
- AEC [Ballot paper formality guidelines](#)
- AEC [House of Representatives count](#)
- AEC TV video: [Scrutineers look but don't touch](#)
- AEC TV video: [Counting the votes](#)
- [Preferential voting - Australian Electoral Commission](#)

