DEMOCRACITY

Election night module

Election night

Approximate play time

10 - 20 minutes

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

Students are transported to the polling place after it closes on election night. Students will help conduct a House of Representative first preference count.

Students will also learn about the various security and transparency measures used when opening ballot boxes and sorting ballot papers.

In the second module, students will help conduct a House of Representatives two-candidate preferred (TCP) count. The TCP is conducted on election night after the first preference count to give an early indication of results.

Learning outcomes

By the end of the first module, students will:

- Recall that ballot papers are first sorted by first preference on election night.
- Recall what a first preference count is.
- Identify an informal ballot paper.
- Demonstrate how to sort ballot papers by first preference.
- Recall that there are processes to ensure transparency and election integrity in the counting of ballot papers.

By the end of the second module, students will:

- Recall that a two-candidate preferred (TCP) count is conducted after a first preference count on election night.
- Recognise the role of the TCP count.
- Demonstrate how to sort ballot papers in a TCP count.
- Recall that there are processes to ensure transparency and election integrity in the counting of ballot papers.

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 resources - [Get Voting - School elections made easy](#)
- Get Voting: Instructions for counting [First-past-the-post and Preferential including tally sheet](#)
- 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](#)