

Lesson 8: Post-Election Analysis



GUIDING QUESTIONS

❶ How can we analyze election results?

❷ How did the Student Vote results compare to the general election results?

❸ What did I learn during my Student Vote experience?

OVERVIEW

Elections are complex events and it is helpful to analyze the results to better understand the process and outcomes.

In this lesson, students analyze and discuss the results of Student Vote Manitoba and the provincial general election and use data to create charts or infographics. In the *Consolidation* activity, students have the opportunity to reflect on their learning experience.

LEARNING GOALS

We are learning to:

- analyze election results;
- use data to create charts or graphs;
- discuss how different events or factors may have contributed to the outcome of the election; and,
- communicate new learning and how the program has influenced our thinking.

Tips for Teachers

- Please use the activities and combine them in a way that is appropriate for your class.
- Remember to wait until the voting ends in your electoral division to share your school's Student Vote results. Student election officials at your school should be sworn to secrecy.

Supplies/Needs

- You can access the Student Vote Manitoba results on the project website, including results by electoral division and individual school results (studentvote.ca/mb2023 > Results)
- News coverage about the election results and/or internet access
- Slide Deck 8
- Digital access to or copies of 8.1 and 8.2 or 8.3
- Computer access or software applications for creating any charts or infographics
- All digital files, videos and slide decks can be found on the project website

Starter

1. Announce the results of your school's vote. Who received the most votes? What percentage of the vote did the winner receive? Was it a close race?
2. Compare the results of your school's vote with the results of other schools in your electoral division. Are the results similar or different? How did the results vary between schools? (Individual school results can be found at studentvote.ca/mb2023 > Results).

Activities

1. Using Slide Deck 8, review some key concepts for examining election results, including seat count, popular vote, governing party, majority government, minority government and official opposition.
 - **Seat count** is the number of seats (or MLAs) that each party will have in the Manitoba legislature. It reflects the number of electoral divisions won by each party.
 - **Popular vote** is the percentage of total votes that each party received throughout the province.
 - The party with the most seats usually becomes the governing party, and their leader typically becomes premier. If the governing party has more than half of all seats, they will have a **majority government**. If they have less than half, they will have a **minority government**.

- The party that has the second most seats becomes the **official opposition**. Any other party is called an opposition party.
2. Using the Student Vote Manitoba website, the Elections Manitoba website and/or news coverage, compare the Student Vote and general election results. In pairs, have students complete Activity 8.1. Afterwards, review the answers as a class.

In pairs or small groups, have students create infographics or charts displaying the Student Vote and/or general election results (e.g., bar charts, pie charts). Charts can be produced on chart paper, in Excel, Google Sheets or another application. Students should use data from the Student Vote Manitoba website and/or Elections Manitoba website. Consider assigning different data sets, such as the percentage of the vote won by each candidate in your electoral division, seat count distribution by party or province-wide popular vote.

3. As a class, have a closing discussion about the results. Questions to prompt discussion:
 - What factors do you think shaped the final outcome?
 - Why do you think the results of the Student Vote or general election were similar or different?

Consider using a 'Fish-Bowl' discussion protocol.

- a) This activity involves one group of students discussing a prompt while another group or the rest of the class observes the discussion. Set up your classroom so that 5 or 6 chairs are in the centre of the room with enough space on the outside for the rest of the class to form a circle around them. The students in the inner circle (the fishbowl) will lead the discussion while the students in the outer circle will be the observers.
- b) Provide students with one of the questions above. Give students a few minutes to reflect on the prompt individually.
- c) Ask for volunteers to enter the fishbowl. These students will discuss the prompt while the rest of the students observe silently and take notes.
- d) Replace the students in the fishbowl with a new set of volunteers, and repeat the process until everyone has had a chance to be inside the fishbowl. Alternatively, you can set up multiple fishbowls in your classroom.

Consolidation and Assessment Activity

Option 1: As a culminating activity, have students fill out the Election Reflection 'Exit Slip' (Activity 8.2) or answer the questions through a written reflection in their learning journal.

- Three things I learned about provincial elections
- Two activities I enjoyed the most during the Student Vote program
- One way that this experience has changed me or developed my opinions

Option 2: Have students create a visual timeline or pathway that depicts their Student Vote experience. Students can use Activity 8.3 or create their own pathway using a combination of visuals and text.

- One question you had at the beginning of your journey
- Three activities you enjoyed during the election
- One big idea that summarizes the entire learning experience

BACKGROUND INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

After voting ends on election night, the unofficial results are posted on the Elections Manitoba website as they are reported by the voting officer of each electoral division. These results do not include a breakdown of poll-by-poll results.

A few days after the election, the voting officer conducts the official tabulation. At the end of this process, the voting officer provides a final report for each poll to the Chief Electoral Officer with the total number of accepted, declined and rejected ballots.

Upon receipt of the official tabulation report from the voting officer, the Chief Electoral Officer declares the results official and then publishes a notice in the *Manitoba Gazette* with the names of the candidates elected as Members of the Legislative Assembly. This report is also published on Elections Manitoba website.

Seat count is the term used to reflect the number of representatives that each party will have in the Manitoba legislature. It represents

the number of local electoral division races won by each party. The 57 seats contested in this election will be awarded to the candidates in each of the electoral divisions who receive the greatest number of votes.

Popular vote is the term used to show the total support a political party received across the province. It is expressed as a percentage and is calculated by dividing the number of votes a party received by the total number of votes in the provincial election. Under our electoral system, the seat count is not related to the popular vote percentage and therefore has no impact on the election outcome.

The political party with the most seats usually forms the government and their leader typically becomes the premier. If the governing party has more than half of all the seats (29 or more), they will have a **majority government**. If they have half or less (28 or fewer), they will have a **minority government**.

The party that has the second most seats usually becomes the **official opposition**. Any other party is called an opposition party. It is the

responsibility of the opposition parties to hold the government to account and to question its actions. The official opposition organizes a shadow cabinet to act as expert critics on the portfolios or government ministries managed by each cabinet minister.

In order to pass any **legislation** or budgets, the bills must have support from more than half of the Members of the Legislative Assembly. If the governing party has a minority government, they will need to gain the support of some of the opposition parties or independent candidates in order to pass any legislation.

Elections are multifaceted events. Counting the ballots and crunching the numbers is essential, but so is looking for answers and meaning behind the process and outcome.

ASSESSMENT OPPORTUNITIES

LESSON SECTION	GUIDING QUESTIONS FOR TEACHERS
Starter	<p>Can students analyze the Student Vote results locally?</p> <p>Are students posing questions about how the local results feed into the provincial results?</p>
Activities	<p>Do students understand the key concepts for examining election results?</p> <p>Do they understand how provincial governments are formed?</p> <p>Do students understand how to use data to create charts/graphs of the results?</p> <p>Can students speculate as to why certain parties and candidates were successful or unsuccessful?</p> <p>Are students providing reasons for similarities or differences between the Student Vote and general election results?</p>
Consolidation	<p>Can students reflect on what they enjoyed and learned through the Student Vote activities?</p>

ADAPTATIONS AND SUPPORTS

Individual Education Plans	<p>Modifications</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide various links and examples to media coverage of the election results in various formats, including written summaries, video recaps and illustrated graphics/charts. <p>Enrichment</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ask students to compare voter turnout statistics for the current election with past elections.
Language Learners	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide definitions of key terms (e.g., seat count, popular vote, governing party, official opposition). • Watch a media recap of the provincial election results.
Culturally Responsive Pedagogy	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analyze the demographics of the newly elected Legislative Assembly and how it compares to the population of Manitoba. • Discuss specific issues facing your electoral division, and how they could be impacted by your newly elected MLA, and the provincial government. • Discuss how the election results could affect marginalized groups, including Indigenous Peoples.
Accessibility & Accommodations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • If working in pairs or small groups is not possible, consider using Google Docs or Google Sheets for collaboration. • The <i>Consolidation</i> activity can be created in a digital format.