

Lesson 9: Post-Election Analysis



GUIDING QUESTIONS

- 1 How can we analyze election results?
- 2 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 what the outcome means for the future of the province.

In this lesson, students analyze and discuss the results of Student Vote Manitoba and the provincial general election. Using a 'Fish-Bowl' discussion protocol, students discuss the factors that shaped the results and what the outcome means for the province. In the *Consolidation* activity, students reflect on their Student Vote learning experience.

LEARNING GOALS

By the end of the lesson, students can:

- analyze the Student Vote and general election results;
- discuss how campaign events influenced the outcome of the election; and,
- evaluate the impact of the Student Vote activities on themselves.

Starter

1. Announce the results of your school's Student Vote election. Which candidate 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 www.studentvote.ca/mb2023 > Results).

Activities

1. Using Slide Deck 9, review some key concepts for analyzing election results, including seat count, popular vote, governing party and official opposition.
 - **Seat count** is the term used to show the number of representatives 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. It is shown as a percentage and is calculated by dividing the number of votes that a party received by the total number of votes in the election.
 - 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.
 - To pass a law, the government must have support from more than half of the MLAs. If there is a minority government, the governing party will need to gain the support of other parties or independent candidates in order to pass any laws.

Ask students to work in pairs to complete Activity 9.1.

Direct students to the Student Vote Manitoba website (studentvote.ca/mb2023) and Elections Manitoba website (electionsmanitoba.ca) to complete their data collection.

2. As a class, review the answers to Activity 9.1 and discuss the ending questions.
 - Are you surprised by the election results? Why or why not?
 - Why do you think the results of the Student Vote or general election were similar or different?

3. Using a 'Fish-Bowl' discussion protocol, discuss the following prompt:
 - What factors shaped the outcome of the election?
 - What does the outcome mean for the future of the province?
 - 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

Option 1: As a culminating activity, have students fill out the Election Reflection 'Exit Slip' (Activity 9.2) 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
- One way that this experience has changed me or developed my opinions

Option 2: Create a visual timeline or pathway that depicts your Student Vote learning experience (Activity 9.3). Using a combination of visuals and text, it should include the following:

- One question you had at the beginning of your journey
- Three activities you enjoyed in the lead up to Student Vote Day
- One 'a-ha' moment
- One big idea that summarizes the entire experience

Extension Activity

Have students compare news stories from several different media websites and regional and/or local newspapers to analyze the portrayal of the election outcome.

Guiding questions:

- Did the sources report the results in a similar way? Why or why not?
- How is the future of the province portrayed by each source?
- Can you detect any political leanings by the media groups?

ADAPTATIONS AND SUPPORTS

Language Learners	• Provide students with terms and definitions in advance (e.g., seat count, popular vote, governing party, official opposition, majority government, minority government).
Culturally Responsive Pedagogy	• Analyze the demographics of the newly elected Manitoba legislature. How does it compare to the population of Manitoba? How does it compare to the previously elected legislature?
Accommodations	• If working in small groups is not possible, consider using Google Docs for collaborative activities.

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.