

The Loh Class presents Ideas on the Student Vote

For the past 7 years, my Grade 7 classes have participated in the student vote for municipal, provincial, and federal elections as well as the Student Budget Consultation and Rep Day. There are a variety of ways to organize the events and can be done within your own class or as a school-wide initiative. Lastly, there are many additional resources that can be used to supplement the lesson plans provided by CIVIX.

Student Vote Resources and More



In the past, my classes have followed the resources provided by CIVIX for the municipal, provincial, and federal elections quite closely.

The unit starts out with an understanding of the difference between the right to vote and the responsibility to vote as well as a background on Canada's history with voting rights. Before going any further, we generally fill out the [CBC Survey](#) to see how each student compares to the rest of Canada's

population. As the unit progresses, the students are then exposed to the various political parties. CIVIX provides videos of candidates answering students' questions on key issues. In addition to this, we listen to the CKNW or CBC debates between electoral candidates. We talk about what makes a good opening speech and how confidently the candidates are able to respond to their opponent's questions. At this point, students are generally leaning towards voting for a particular candidate or party and they're encouraged to talk to their family members or adults in their lives about what their main concerns are with the upcoming election. Generally, this is a good starting point for talking about what the students value and finding similarities or differences in what adults value. If we're participating in the provincial or federal election, we complete the CBC Vote Compass which after a series of multiple choice questions, shows students where they stand on the political spectrum.

Overall, participating in the student vote provides my class with a sense of pride when they learn how far Canada has come as a nation as well as responsibility as a lot of them discover that they're teaching the adults in their lives about the key issues in each election.

Going further into key topics that arise? Check out:

- A tour of City Hall
- [Discovery Kit](#) from the Vancouver Holocaust Centre
- Interesting articles from the news

Running a Successful Student Vote

SERPENTINE
REPORTER

X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X

2018 LOCAL GOVERNMENT AND SCHOOL DISTRICT ELECTIONS
STUDENT VOTE
VOICE YOUR CHOICE

CVIX

X	X	X
X	X	X
X	X	X

ÉLECTIONS MUNICIPALES ET SCOLAIRES DE 2018
VOTE ÉTUDIANT
EXPRIMEZ VOTRE CHOIX

CVIX Caswell



In the past, my Grade 7 classes have led the Student Vote either solely in our classroom or for the whole school. When leading the vote as a school-wide activity and depending on how many candidates and parties are on the ballot, we generally allot 15-20 minutes for each class.

Prior to the vote:

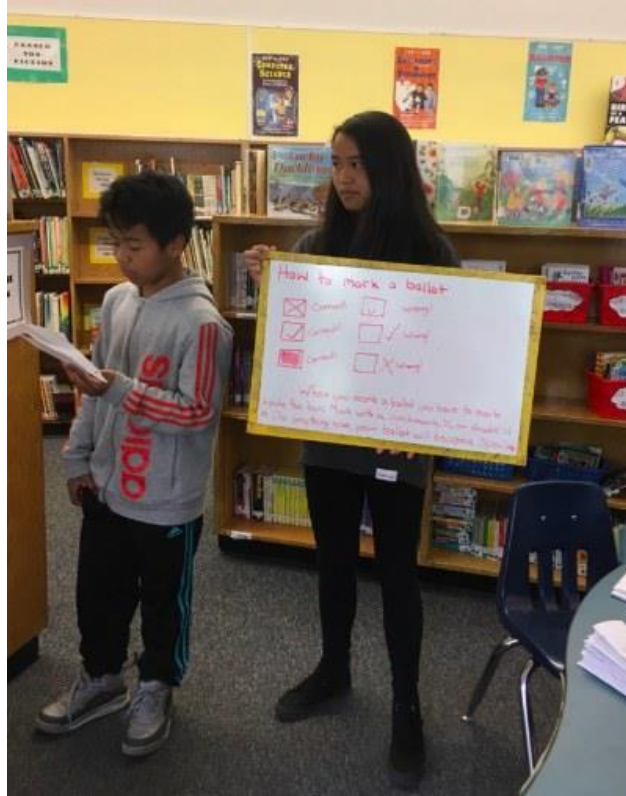
- Students fill out their voter card
- Get a class list from the secretary of all the divisions that will be attending the vote
- Get "I Voted" stickers ready
- Put up posters about the vote
- Go around to classes to inform them on the key issues and remind them to bring their voting card to the polling station

The roles on Election Day:

- Scrutineers - explain how to mark the ballot and help the students line up by last name
- Voting Clerk - matching the voter cards to a class list and handing out the ballots
- Deputy Officers - monitor the ballot boxes
- News Reporters
- Videographers
- Data Analysts - create various glyphs for all the students to fill out



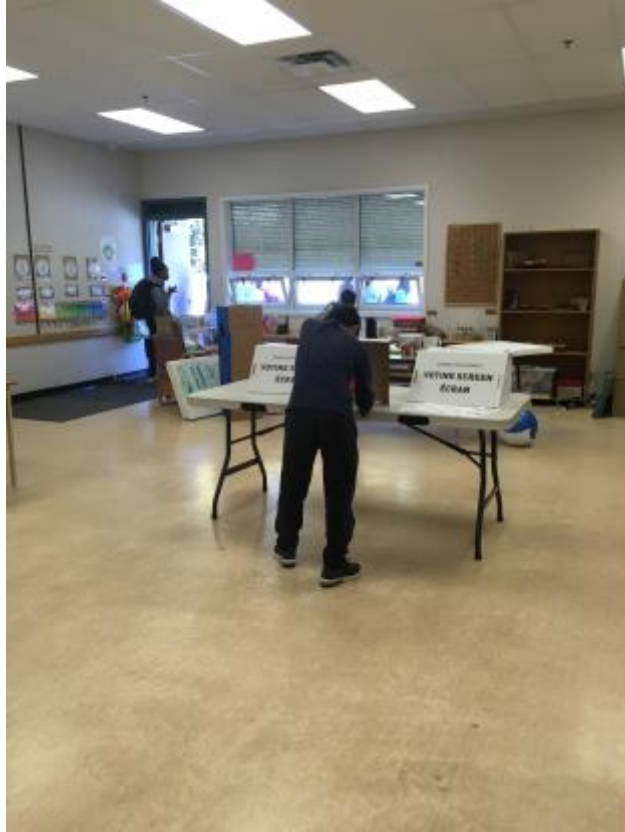
1 - I Voted Stickers



2 - Scrutineers introducing the procedure



3 - Scrutineers introducing the procedure



4 - Making careful choices



5 - Voting Clerks waiting patiently



6 - Voting Officers monitoring the submission of ballots



7 - An example of a glyph





Rep Day

In preparation of inviting Mr. Randeep Serai into our classroom, we had two students greet him at the office, we had another student introduce him to the class, we prepared questions to ask him, and we prepared a thank-you template so that we could add in one thing that we enjoyed about the meeting. It was a huge success! He answered tough questions about legalizing marijuana in kid-friendly language and took pictures with us.

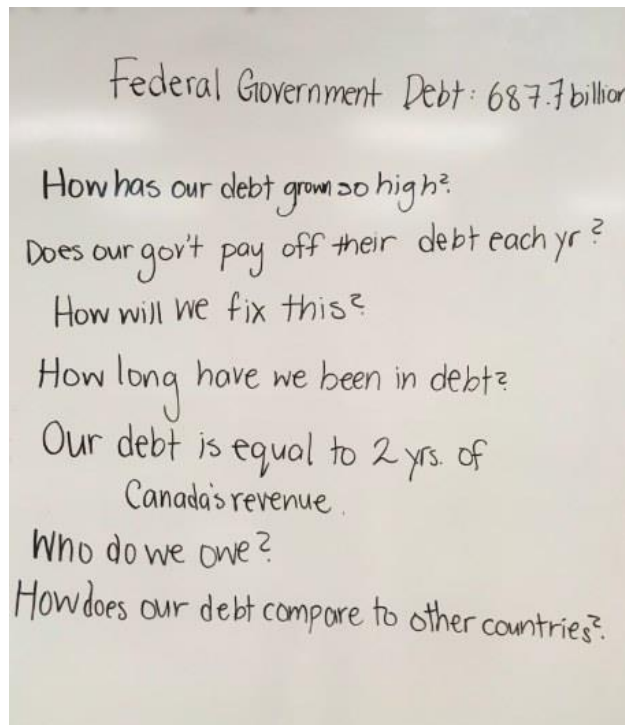


Student Budget Consultation

Similar to the Student Vote resources, my classes have followed the resources provided by CIVIX quite closely. One additional activity that we did to deepen our understanding was look at famous Canadians' incomes and then, figure out how much they would be taxed based on the current federal income tax brackets. After completing this activity, students were more equipped to answer the questions in the Student Budget Consultation and provide meaningful reflections in their journals.

Additional resources to check out to help or deepen understanding:

- [How Tax Brackets Work](#) (resource is American but the concept is explained well)
- [Federal Tax Brackets](#)
- [Junior Achievement](#) (they provide free workshops for students on financial literacy)
- [Talk With Our Kids About Money](#)



8 - Notice/Wonder activity after looking at Canada's debt.