

Electing members of parliament

1. Create an election quiz

Devise a quiz about electing members of parliament. Write a list of ten questions and answers. For example, you could ask questions like 'How often are federal elections held?' Find a partner and take it in turns to answer each other's questions.



2. Write a speech or design a poster to convince Australian voters to elect you to Parliament

You will have to decide on a slogan and think about what you want to express about yourself.

3. Imagine you are a journalist who has been asked to write an article about your federal electorate

Use 'who, what, when, where, why' questions to collect information. For example, 'when was your electorate established?' and 'who is your federal member?' Alternatively, you could investigate a senator who represents your state or territory.

To find out which electorate you live in and the name of your federal member, follow this link to the Australian Electoral Commission website:

www.tinyurl.com/AECElect

To find out more about your federal member or the senators who represent you, follow this link to the Australian Parliament House website:

www.tinyurl.com/APH-SenMem

4. Conduct a class election using preferential voting. As a class, decide on a theme or topic to vote on

For example, the election could be about favourite bands, television programs, sports or school subjects. Create a ballot paper listing the top three candidates.

Each student receives one ballot paper. Number the candidates from one to three in order of your choice. Make sure you number all three boxes. Place your folded ballot paper in a ballot box. The vote should be conducted in secret.

Use the preferential voting system to discover the results of your class election.

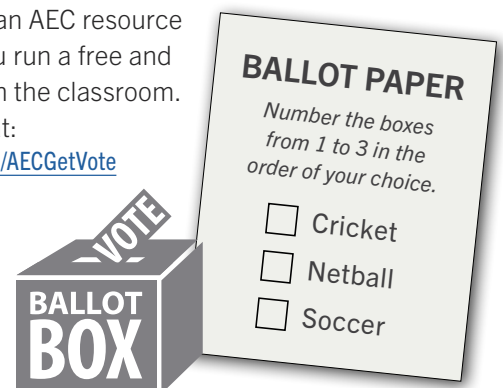
To find out how an election is conducted using preferential voting, look at 'How Preferential Voting Works' on p.8 of Get Parliament or check this link on the Australian Electoral Commission (AEC) website:

www.tinyurl.com/HoRCountVote

Get Voting is an AEC resource that helps you run a free and fair election in the classroom.

Download it at:

www.tinyurl.com/AECGetVote



5. Devise a social media campaign encouraging 18 year olds to enrol to vote

A large number of Australians aged 18 to 24 are not enrolled to vote. How would you convince young Australians to have a say about who runs the country?

For more information on elections, check the Australian Electoral Commission website:

www.aec.gov.au



6. Lowering the voting age

It has been suggested that the voting age be lowered from 18 to 16. Should 16 and 17 year olds have the right to vote? Give reasons for your answer.

There has been a lot of discussion about lowering the voting age in Australia. Google the topic to find out more.

7. Compulsory voting

Australia is one of the few countries in the world where voting is compulsory. This means all eligible Australians must vote at federal elections. Discuss the pros and cons of compulsory voting.

To find out more about compulsory voting, check the 'Voting' section on the Australian Electoral Commission site:

www.aec.gov.au/Voting

For more about why the Australian Parliament agreed to introduce compulsory voting, take a look at Get Parliament: Compulsory voting in Australia:

www.tinyurl.com/HistVote



8. The impact of social media on federal election campaigns

Social media sites like Facebook, YouTube and Twitter are increasingly being used by political parties to get their message out to voters. Has this affected the way election campaigns are run? Does social networking allow parties to engage more directly with the community?

To find out more do a search on the internet.