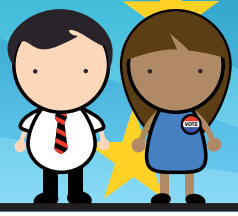
Resource 4.6
Activity 2 Teacher's Notes



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Understanding the Single Transferable Vote (STV)

The STV is a system of proportional representation designed to ensure that the candidates who are elected represent the wishes of voters. Although voters only have one vote, STV allows their vote to be transferred from one candidate to another to make sure it is not wasted.

Setting up Seats

We recommend that you limit your election to the following number seats depending on the number of voters:

Class/Small Year-Group Election	Whole-School/Large Year-Group Election
1 seat	2 seats

Ranking their Preferences

Instead of simply voting for only one candidate, voters in an STV election indicate their preference for a number of candidates. Their favourite candidate (or the party with which they most closely agree) gets their first preference – a number 1 is written in the box beside their name. Their next favourite candidate gets a 2, the next a 3 and so on. Voters generally don't put a number beside every single candidate, but they can if they want to.

The benefit of the STV system is illustrated in the PowerPoint that accompanies Session 4. In the first example in the presentation, Voter A supports the EU but also wants to see tidiness reform, so he or she selects the EU parties as first and second choices and chooses the "Tidy Your Room Party" as a third choice.

In the second example, the Voter B opposes the EU, but also supports the tidiness platform, so he or she makes the "EU no thanks" and "Anarchy" parties choice 1 and 2, and then votes for the "Tidy Your Room Party" as choice 3.

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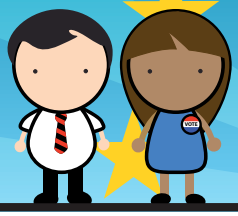

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How to Fill in a Ballot Paper (and Prevent Spoiled Ballots)

Show your pupils a sample ballot and explain the importance of not spoiling their ballot. The third example in the PowerPoint shows a ballot paper that a voter has spoiled. Spoiled papers occur when:

- voters write the same preference against two different candidates;
- voters write the same number twice against a candidate's name; or
- they have been defaced (for example have graffiti on them, etc.)

Spoiled ballot papers are not used to calculate votes. They are discarded, and those votes do not count.

Setting the Quota

The quota is the number of votes a candidate/party must receive in order to win a seat. The quota is based on the number of valid ballot papers submitted in an election and the number of seats available.

To calculate the quota, you use two equations. Ignore any remainders that you get when you calculate. The equations are as follows:

Equation 1: **number of valid ballot papers ÷ (number of seats + 1) = ?**
Equation 2: **total of Equation 1 + 1 = the quota**

For example, if 125 valid ballot papers were submitted in an election where 1 seat was available, the equations would be:

125 ÷ (1 + 1) = 62 (with a remainder 1, which you ignore)
62 + 1 = 63

Therefore, the quota would be 63.

If 125 valid papers were completed for a 2 seat election, then it would be:

125 ÷ (2 + 1) = 41 (with a remainder 3, which you ignore)
41 + 1 = 42

Therefore, the quota would be 42.