



EXIT POLLING

(30-40 minutes over two days)

OBJECTIVE

Students poll voters after they participate in an election.

MATERIALS

Exit Polling Survey handout; graphing paper or access to a computer graphing program

GET READY

- ✓ Make three copies of the *Exit Polling Survey* handout for each pair of students.
- ✓ If you don't have access to a computer graphing program, make sure you have graphing paper available.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Break your students up into pairs. Give each pair three copies of the *Exit Polling Survey* handout.
- ✓ Take a few minutes to discuss the survey with your class, letting them know that they will be asking these questions of voters as they leave the polls. Tell your students to politely ask voters if they would like to participate in the exit poll. (If voters choose not to participate, students should say, "Thank you anyway and have a great Election Day!")
- ✓ Have your students go to various adult voting polls to survey voters as they leave. Students should only go to the polls with adult supervision and stand a good distance from the polling place exit.

- ✓ Have your students bring their voter responses to school. As a class, compile all of the information into specific graphs (candidate-focused graphs, issue-oriented graphs, fairness of election graphs, etc.).
- ✓ Discuss the graphs as a class and try to make predictions for the outcomes of the election.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *How was this activity for you? Did most people want to participate? Why do you think some people chose not to participate?*
- ★ *Are you able to make any conclusions or predictions from the graphs? Like what?*
- ★ *Were there any responses that surprised you? If so, why?*
- ★ *How many people did the class survey? Do you think the class's results and predictions are an accurate depiction of the greater population? Why or why not?*

EXIT POLLING

EXIT POLLING SURVEY

On a scale of 1-10 (1 being not interested and 10 being extremely interested) how interested were you in this year's election?

If you don't mind sharing, please tell me what candidates you voted for?

Were you satisfied with the choice of candidates?

Generally speaking, do you think of yourself as a Republican, a Democrat, an Independent, or something else?

What would you say is the most important issue this election?

Do you ever discuss politics with family or friends? If yes, about how often?

Did anyone from one of the political parties send you mail/call you about the campaign this year? If yes, which party?

How long before the election did you decide that you were going to vote the way you did?

In some countries, people believe their elections are conducted fairly—in others, unfairly. Thinking about the election we just had, would you say it was very fair, somewhat fair, neither fair nor unfair, somewhat unfair, or very unfair?