



VOTING SIMULATION

(30-40 minutes)

OBJECTIVE

Students vote in a simulated polling place to become familiar with the voting process.

MATERIALS

Paper for ballots; material for a ballot box and voting booth; *Polling Place Diagram* handout

GET READY

- ✓ Choose an issue that will impact the students rather quickly. For instance, vote on what's for homework that evening or something fun such as determining the class's favorite color.
- ✓ Prepare ballots or determine a way to vote on blank pieces of paper.
- ✓ Prepare a simple ballot box and voting booth.
- ✓ Arrange a corner of the classroom to resemble a polling place as shown in the diagram.

INSTRUCTIONS

- ✓ Explain the roles of the various precinct workers and assign students to these roles. Seat them as shown in the diagram.
- ✓ Give one of the judges the registration sheet derived from the registration simulation.
- ✓ Give the clerks lined paper to record the voters as they come in.
- ✓ Hand the ballots to the other judge.
- ✓ Seat the marshal by the ballot box.
- ✓ Ask a student to demonstrate by casting the first vote.

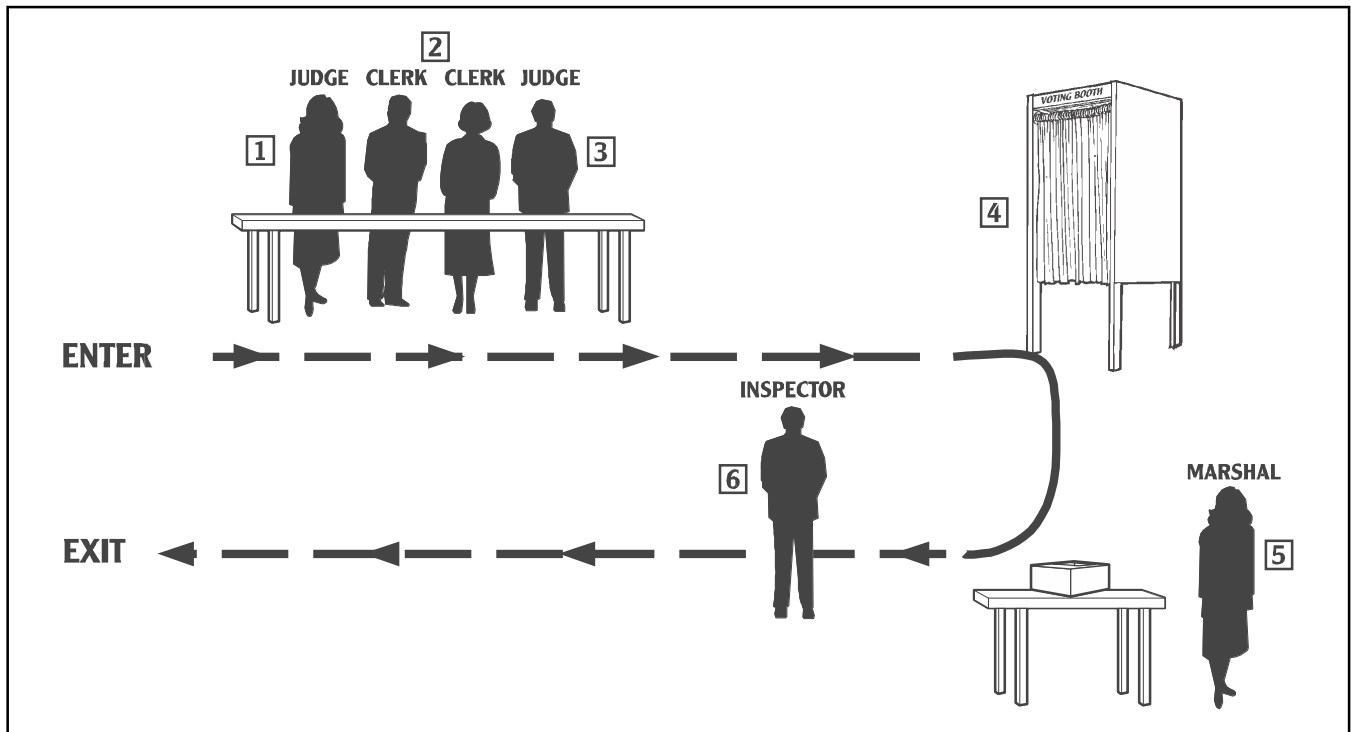
- ✓ Let each student go through the process of voting.
- ✓ Instruct the marshal to tally and announce the vote.
- ✓ Implement the vote.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

- ★ *Who can go into a polling place?*
- ★ *Have you ever gone with your parents?*
- ★ *Where was it?*
- ★ *How do adults know where to go to vote?*
- ★ *If they don't know, how can they find out?*
- ★ *Can everybody vote?*
- ★ *Have you voted at the Kids Voting booth before? What was it like?*
- ★ *Where will you go to cast your Kids Voting vote this election?*
- ★ *Are there any rules in a polling place?*
- ★ *What do you think are good manners for a polling place?*



POLLING PLACE DIAGRAM



At the polls there are usually one inspector; two judges — one Republican, one Democrat; two clerks — one Republican, one Democrat; and one marshal.

As you enter you will generally meet:

- 1 A judge with the register, a list containing the names of registered voters in the precinct, who will ask your name, find it in the register, and ask you to sign beside it
- 2 Two clerks, one for each party, who will add your name to a list to witness that you have voted
- 3 Another judge, who will hand you your ballot, and help you understand how to cast your ballot
- 4 A voting booth
- 5 The marshal, who will take your ballot and place it in the ballot box
- 6 The inspector, who oversees the polling place and assigns all the workers their duties

Poll workers have other duties. For instance the marshal makes sure that the law is kept. She watches that no one campaigns within 150 feet of the polls and she checks to see that everyone in line when the poll closes gets a chance to vote.

You, the voter, will:

- 1. Sign in by writing your name in the register
- 2. Take a ballot from a judge
- 3. Go to the booth and vote
- 4. Return your ballot to the marshal