

Lesson: Comparing voting systems

Step One: Research which states use which voting systems. Assign two or more states to each student, depending upon class size. Have students research which voting system their assigned states use.

Create a class chart with each of the four voting systems provided in the background information to this lesson along the top of each column. Fill in the states under the appropriate column. Have students figure out which system is the most popular and discuss why they think it is the most popular.

Step Two: Assign each student or group two types of voting systems and have them create a t-chart using the attached form to list the pro's and con's of each.

Step Three: Discuss student results as a class so that all students have all pro's and con's for each of the four voting systems.

Step Four: Answer the following question: Which form of voting is best? You may use one of the current voting systems in one or more of the states or create your own solution to the issue.

Step Five: Create groups based on answers to the question in step four putting like answers together. Groups will then work together to create a presentation defending their choice using evidence from the charts to support their position. Presentations should include visual aids including new graphic organizers created by the group displaying their supporting evidence in a creative, logical and understandable manner.

Step Six: During the group presentations, other groups should be prepared to question the presenting group on their proposed solution and supporting evidence.

Step Seven: After all groups present their proposed solutions, have students vote on which solution was the most persuasive.

Step Eight: Assessment activity: Writing prompt: Which system is best? Support your answer using evidence as well as information and persuasive arguments learned in the presentation about your chosen solution. Persuasive writing lessons from this Unit may be used here as well.