

Activity 3 - Voting Activity

- Time:** 10 – 15 minutes
- Objective:** Students will be introduced to Cooperative Principle 2 – Democratic member control: Democratic organizations controlled by their members who actively participate in setting their policies and making decisions. One member = One vote.
- Step 1:** Explain to students that throughout Day 1 and Day 2 you will be working as a mini-cooperative (4-5 members). Each cooperative will have to complete a challenging task. In order to complete the task, your cooperative will have to make decisions. These decisions will be made through the democratic process of voting. The first decision that your cooperative will make is that each member of your cooperative will be part of the governing board and will be elected to an office.
- Step 2:** Instruct students to take out their Voting Handout.
- Step 3:** Group students into cooperatives (4-5 students). If possible, before the day you arrive, ask the teacher who will be subbing for to create a group list to avoid problems in groups.
- Step 4:** Have students move their desks so that they are in a facing each other.
- Step 5:** Guide students through the first vote by asking each cooperative to select a secretary.
- A. Read the job description of the secretary to the groups: This officer will take notes throughout the two days and keep those notes secure in his/her folder. If a vote needs to be taken, the secretary is responsible for passing out the ballots, counting the ballots and reporting to the cooperative the winning decision.
 - B. Ask each group if there is anyone that wants to be the secretary for their group.
 - C. Write down volunteers for each group on the board.
 - D. Then ask if anyone wants to nominate a secretary for their group.
 - E. Write those names down as well.
 - F. If more than one person is nominated or self-nominated, distribute ballots to each member of the cooperatives that need to vote.
 - G. Instruct them to write down one name.
 - H. Go to each group, and collect the votes and then name the secretary. If there is a tie, flip a coin.
 - I. Instruct the new secretary that his/her job is to now lead the voting procedure for the other three positions.
- Step 6:** Once all of the officers have been selected, have them write the names on the handout, and you should also write down their names in your notes for future reference.

Activity 3 – Voting Handout

Directions: Each of you will be an officer in your cooperative. In order to select these roles you will need to nominate or self-nominate a person. If more than one person is nominated, the secretary will lead the voting process. Once you have selected all of your officers, write their names on this paper and keep it in your folder.

SECRETARY: The secretary is responsible for taking all notes during brainstorming sessions, writing sessions and note taking sessions. If a decision needs to be made, the secretary is responsible for passing out the ballots, counting the ballots and reporting to the cooperative the winning decision.

Name of SECRETARY _____

CHAIRPERSON: The chairperson is responsible for keeping the cooperative team on task during activities. If there is a tie during a decision, the chairperson gets to break the tie.

Name of the CHAIRPERSON _____

MATERIAL HANDLER: The material handler is responsible for collecting or distributing any handouts or materials that need to be gathered or delivered.

Name of the MATERIAL HANDLER _____

REPORTER: The reporter is responsible for reporting to the class or writing down any notes on the board. In the final performance task, the reporter will lead the introduction to the radio ad.

Name of the REPORTER _____

For Teams of 5:

QUESTION ASKER: The question asker is responsible for getting help from the teacher when the group is stuck on a problem or needs help. If there are only 4 members in your cooperative, the question asker role is assigned to the Material Handler.

Name of the QUESTION ASKER _____