Election Simulation Guide
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**Resources**

Existing Online Resources

1. RCV123
    a. Free resource to run elections under single member district plurality and ranked choice. Use for election 1.a (single member district) and 1.b (ranked choice voting).
    b. Data downloadable into CSV.
2. Google Forms
    a. Free resource on Google Suite to conduct surveys.
    b. Suitable for proportional and mixed member voting. Use for election 2 (proportional) and election 3 (mixed member).
    *c. There are more "secure" options available, but given my resources and familiarity with Google, this was an efficient platform for voting.*
        *i. I appreciate that it creates visuals (pie charts, etc) that can be compared to later iterations of the government makeup (via Election Calculator and Pie Chart Generator).*
3. The American Presidency Project
    a. Useful for finding main party platforms. .
4. Election Calculator
    a. Free resource to calculate allotment of seats in party election with threshold. Use for election 2 and 3.
5. Pie Chart Generator
    a. Used to display the makeup of the electoral body following recalibration of election 2 (proportional) and election 3 (mixed member) using the Election Calculator, which takes into account thresholds.

Curated Materials

1. Slides
    a. Accompanies the presentation/simulation.
    b. Includes helpful videos explaining the election process, from various sources.
2. Party Platforms
    a. Based on 2012 party platforms.
    b. Fuller version and TLDR version included.

**Presentation Instructions**

Preparation:

1. Create parties/candidates
2. Build ballots
    a. RCV123
    b. Google Forms
3. Pull up support materials to conduct elections 2 and 3.
    a. Election Calculator
    b. Pie Chart Generator

Presentation

1. Explain *who* and *what* participants will be voting for.
    a. What is the level of government?
    b. Are these candidates real or fictional?
        i. In the above resources, candidates are fictional and parties are based on real party platforms.
        ii. In my version of this exercise, I centered parties over candidates.
2. Go in depth into the party platforms.
    a. Offer to answer questions before each election.
    b. Distribute material on the parties/candidates.
    c. Address a breadth of issues relevant to the audience.
3. Election 1 (A & B): Single member district and ranked choice voting.
    a. Explain each system via multiple mediums, including oral, written, and visual (YouTube videos, etc.)
    b. Conduct the election via **RCV123**.
    c. Review results
4. Election 2: Proportional representation.
    a. Explain each system via multiple mediums, including oral, written, and visual (YouTube videos, etc.).
    b. Conduct the election via Google Forms
    c. Review preliminary results
    d. Enter results into the **Election Calculator** to calibrate with the threshold
    e. Enter final results into **Pie Chart Generator** for a visual representation
    f. Review and compare.
5. Election 3: Mixed member
    a. Explain each system via multiple mediums, including oral, written, and visual (YouTube videos, etc.).
    b. Conduct the election via Google Forms
    c. Review preliminary results
    d. Enter results into the **Election Calculator** to calibrate with the threshold, totaling seats won in each district election AND seats won in the party-list election
    e. Enter final results into **Pie Chart Generator** for a visual representation
    f. Review and compare.

6. Feedback
    a. Offer discussion and/or a feedback survey.
        i. Ask which system they preferred
        ii. Ask which system they believe to be the most fair
7. Review results, check for inconsistencies
    a. *For example, I found that students had submitted multiple Google Forms due to a settings preference I had neglected.*

**Making the ballots #1**

RCV123

Part 1. Set up

1. Create an account
2. Select security level and whether or not names will be tracked
    a. I would suggest
        i. “Anyone with link” for ease
        ii. “Yes” to tracking names, so that participants do not vote twice

Part 2 Ballot details

1. Select number of individual contests on the ballot– ie. how many races you want to run
    a. I selected 2, so that one could be FPTP and the other RCV
2. Select a time to start/end voting OR leave it manual/open
3. Select setting as to how results will be viewed
    a. I selected real time/live results so students could see RCV in action

Part 3. Details for the contests

1. FPTP
    a. Select all specifications, including the number of winners (1), the number of candidates (at least 3), and the number of rankings (1)
    b. Enter candidate/choice names
        i. Space is limited to names only, hence the usefulness of having separate materials for candidate/party information
2. RCV
    a. Select all specifications, including the number of winners (1), the number of candidates (at least 3), and the number of rankings (up to as many as there are candidates)
    b. Enter candidate/choice names
        i. Space is limited to names only, hence the usefulness of having separate materials for candidate/party information

Part 4. Distribution

1. Attach QR codes to presentation for voting and results
2. Use your dashboard to see how many votes have been cast, stop voting, and see/download results.

**Making the ballots #2**

Party List Proportional Election

Part 1. Set up

1. Create a google form on your google account
2. In the settings, go to “Responses”
    a. Option to collect email addresses
    b. Select “Limit to 1 response”
3. In the settings, go to “Presentation”
    a. Allow participants to “View results summary”

Part 2. Ballot details

1. Give information at the top regarding:
    a. How many representatives will be elected into the legislature in this election
    b. The party vote percentage threshold for getting seats in the legislature
    c. Optional: preface coalition government
2. Include party list with at least as many candidates (contained within parties) as there are seats in the legislature
    a. 100% mathematical accuracy is not necessary; the list of names is to give some point of reference but is inconsequential
3. Create 1 required *Multiple Choice* question asking participants to “Select one party; candidates elected in order of appearance on party list.”

Part 3. Distribution

1. When the form is ready, select the paper plane image on the top right to “Publish”
2. When the election is over, select the image again and select “Not accepting responses” to close the polls.

**Making the ballots #3**

Mixed Member District Election

Part 1. Set up

4. Create a google form on your google account
5. In the settings, go to “Responses”
    a. Option to collect email addresses
    b. Select “Limit to 1 response”
6. In the settings, go to “Presentation”
    a. Allow participants to “View results summary”

Part 2. Ballot details

4. Give information at the top regarding:
    a. How many representatives will be elected into the legislature in this election *by each method, SMDP and proportional party-list*.
        i. Describe which type of MMD election is being used. For simplicity, I used parallel or *majoritarian* to be able to quickly calculate the results.
    b. The party vote percentage threshold for getting seats in the legislature
    c. Optional: preface coalition government
5. Include party list with at least as many candidates (contained within parties) as there are seats in the legislature
    a. 100% mathematical accuracy is not necessary; the list of names is to give some point of reference but is inconsequential
6. SMDP/District: Create multiple (not required) *Multiple Choice* questions
    a. Each question will be prefaced by which district it represents; students will be assigned to a district beforehand.[1]
7. PR/Aggregate: create 1 required *Multiple Choice* question asking participants to “Select one party; candidates elected in order of appearance on party list.”

Part 3. Distribution

3. When the form is ready, select the paper plane image on the top right to “Publish”
4. When the election is over, select the image again and select “Not accepting responses” to close the polls.

[1] I divided the class by major (2), juniors and all other classes (2), and last names A-J and K-Z (2), resulting in 8 districts. The goal is to have districts of roughly equal size. Alternative method would be creating a separate form for each, but I liked being able to do the proportional vote for seats on one form.