Name: _____ Date: _____

What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Circle group

Say a council of six people votes on a new crosswalk. Three say yes. Three say no. Nobody wins. What happens next?

Groups have different answers. The answer is usually in their rules. In many groups, a tie means the motion fails. A proposal needs more yes votes than no votes to pass. The idea can come back another day. Other groups let their leader cast one extra vote. The leader may do it only when there is a tie. A few groups settle ties by chance. They might draw a name from a hat.

This is one reason some groups have an odd number of members. With five or seven people, a tie is less likely. It can still happen if someone chooses not to vote.

A tie teaches a few lessons. First, every vote really counts. Second, the rules for ties should be set before the vote. If rules were made up on the spot, people might argue about them. Knowing the answer ahead of time keeps everyone calm.

A tie can also mean the group should talk longer. Maybe they can find a compromise. In a compromise, each side gives up a little. Then nearly everyone can accept the plan.

Questions

1. How many yes and no votes make a tie in the council of six?

_____

_____

2. In many groups, what does a tie mean for the motion?

_____

_____

3. Why do some groups have an odd number of members?

_____

_____

4. What are two other ways groups settle a tie?

_____

_____

5. Why should the rules for a tie be set before the vote?

_____

_____

6. What is a compromise?

_____

_____

Words to know

council: a group of people chosen to make decisions for a town
crosswalk: a marked place where people can safely cross a street
odd: a number that cannot be split into two equal whole parts
chance: a way of choosing that no one can plan or control
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Triangle group

Suppose a council of six people votes on a new crosswalk. Three say yes and three say no. Nobody wins. What happens next?

Groups have different answers, and the answer is usually written in their rules. In many groups, a tie means the motion fails, because a proposal needs more yes votes than no votes to pass. The idea can be brought back on another day. Other groups let their leader cast one extra vote, but only when there is a tie. A few groups settle ties by chance, such as drawing a name from a hat.

That is one reason some groups have an odd number of members. With five or seven people, a tie is less likely, though it can still happen if someone chooses not to vote.

A tie teaches a few lessons. First, every vote really does count. Second, the rules for ties should be decided before the vote, not after. If rules were invented on the spot, people might argue about whether they are fair. Knowing the answer ahead of time keeps everyone calm.

A tie can also be a sign that the group should talk longer. Maybe the members can find a compromise, where each side gives up a little to reach a plan that nearly everyone can accept.

Questions

1. How many yes and no votes make a tie in the council of six?

_____

_____

2. In many groups, what does a tie mean for the motion?

_____

_____

3. Why do some groups have an odd number of members?

_____

_____

4. What are two other ways groups settle a tie?

_____

_____

5. Why should the rules for a tie be decided before the vote?

_____

_____

6. What is a compromise?

_____

_____

Words to know

council: a group of people chosen to make decisions for a town
crosswalk: a marked place where people can safely cross a street
odd: a number that cannot be split into two equal whole parts
chance: a way of choosing that no one can plan or control
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

Name: _____ Date: _____

What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Square group

Suppose a council consisting of six people votes on whether to build a new crosswalk. Three members vote yes and three vote no, so nobody wins. What happens next?

Different groups provide different answers, and the answer is typically written into their rules. In many groups, a tie means that the motion fails, because a proposal must receive more yes votes than no votes in order to pass. The idea can be brought back for consideration on another day. Other groups permit their leader to cast one additional vote, but only when a tie occurs. A few groups resolve ties by chance, for example by drawing a name from a hat.

That is one reason why some groups choose an odd number of members. With five or seven people, a tie is considerably less likely, although it can still happen if a member decides not to vote.

A tie teaches several lessons. First, every single vote genuinely counts. Second, the rules for ties should be established before the vote rather than afterward. If rules were invented on the spot, people might argue about whether they are fair, whereas knowing the answer beforehand keeps everyone calm.

A tie can also be a signal that the group ought to continue talking. Perhaps the members can discover a compromise, in which each side gives up a little in order to reach a plan that nearly everyone is willing to accept.

Questions

1. How many yes and no votes produce a tie in the council of six?

_____

_____

2. In many groups, what does a tie mean for the motion?

_____

_____

3. Why do some groups choose an odd number of members?

_____

_____

4. What are two other ways groups resolve a tie?

_____

_____

5. Why should the rules for a tie be established before the vote?

_____

_____

6. What is a compromise?

_____

_____

Words to know

council: a group of people chosen to make decisions for a town
crosswalk: a marked place where people can safely cross a street
odd: a number that cannot be split into two equal whole parts
chance: a way of choosing that no one can plan or control
compromise: an agreement where each side gives up a little

Talk together (every group has these)

1. Find one fact that every group read. How did your sheet say it?
2. What did your sheet tell you that you think another group's did not? Ask them.
3. What is one question about this topic that none of the sheets answered?

For the teacher: What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Each student sheet carries a shape, not a level. The same topic and facts, written three ways.

Circle: What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Easier · 203 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 3.3

1. Three yes and three no.
2. The motion fails.
3. A tie is less likely with an odd number.
4. A leader casts an extra vote, or they use chance, such as drawing a name.
5. People will not argue about whether the rules are fair, and everyone stays calm.
6. A plan reached when each side gives up a little.

Triangle: What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

This passage · 215 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.1

1. Three yes and three no.
2. The motion fails.
3. A tie is less likely with an odd number.
4. A leader casts an extra vote, or they use chance, such as drawing a name.
5. People will not argue about whether the rules are fair, and everyone stays calm.
6. A plan reached when each side gives up a little.

Square: What Happens When the Vote Is a Tie?

Harder · 237 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.9

1. Three yes and three no.
2. The motion fails.
3. A tie is considerably less likely with an odd number.
4. A leader casts an additional vote, or they use chance, such as drawing a name.
5. People will not argue about whether the rules are fair, and everyone stays calm.
6. A plan reached when each side gives up a little.