Name: _____ Date: _____

Three Ways to Count a Club Election

Circle group

A club has twenty members. They are picking a president. Three people are running. Ana gets eight votes. Ben gets seven. Cai gets five. Who won? It depends on the rule the club chose before voting.

With a plurality rule, the person with the most votes wins. That is true even if it is not more than half. Ana wins with eight. This way is quick and easy. But it means most of the club voted for someone else.

With a majority rule, the winner needs more than half. Here that is eleven. Nobody has eleven. So no one wins yet. The club must vote again. Often it holds a runoff. A runoff is a second vote with only the top two. Cai's voters now pick Ana or Ben. The one with eleven or more wins. More of the club backs that winner.

Neither way is always best. A runoff takes more time. Plurality is fast, but the winner may not have wide support. The key is to pick the rule first. Picking after the count could look like helping a favorite. If the rule is fair and known, even losers can accept the result.

Questions

1. How many votes did Ana get?

_____

_____

2. How many votes make a majority in this club?

_____

_____

3. What is a runoff?

_____

_____

4. What is one problem with the plurality rule?

_____

_____

5. Why should the club pick its rule before voting?

_____

_____

6. Why might a runoff be worth the extra time?

_____

_____

Words to know

plurality: the most votes, even if not more than half
majority: more than half of the votes
runoff: a second vote between the top two candidates
rule: a set way of doing something that everyone agrees to follow

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: _____

Three Ways to Count a Club Election

Triangle group

A club of twenty members is choosing a president. Three people are running: Ana gets eight votes, Ben gets seven, and Cai gets five. Who won? The answer depends on the rule the club agreed to use before voting.

Under a plurality rule, the person with the most votes wins, even without more than half. Ana wins with eight. This method is quick and easy, but it means most of the club voted for someone else.

Under a majority rule, the winner must have more than half of the votes. Here that means eleven. Nobody has that many, so no one wins yet. The club has to try again. Often it holds a runoff, a second vote between only the top two candidates. Cai's supporters must now pick Ana or Ben. Whoever gets eleven or more is the winner, and that result has wider support.

Neither method is always better. A runoff takes extra time and may need a second meeting, while plurality is fast but can let a candidate win without broad support. What matters is that the club chooses the rule first. Deciding after the votes are counted could look like an attempt to help a favorite. When the rule is fair and known ahead of time, even people who lose can accept the result.

Questions

1. How many votes did Ana get?

_____

_____

2. How many votes make a majority in a club of twenty?

_____

_____

3. What is a runoff?

_____

_____

4. What is one weakness of the plurality rule?

_____

_____

5. Why should a club choose its counting rule before voting?

_____

_____

6. Why might a runoff be worth the extra time?

_____

_____

Words to know

plurality: the most votes, even if not more than half
majority: more than half of the votes
runoff: a second vote between the top two candidates
candidates: people who are trying to win an election
rule: a set way of doing something that everyone agrees to follow

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: _____

Three Ways to Count a Club Election

Square group

A club of twenty members is selecting a president. Three candidates are running: Ana receives eight votes, Ben receives seven, and Cai receives five. Who has won? The answer hinges on the rule that the club agreed to use before the voting began.

Under a plurality rule, the candidate with the most votes wins, even without a share greater than half. Ana would win with eight. This method is quick and uncomplicated, yet it means that most of the club voted for someone else.

Under a majority rule, the winner must collect more than half of the votes, which in this case means eleven. Since nobody reached that total, no one has won yet, and the club must try again. Frequently it holds a runoff, a second vote limited to the top two candidates. Cai's supporters must now choose between Ana and Ben, and whoever reaches eleven or more becomes the winner, with a result that rests on wider support.

Neither method is always preferable. A runoff consumes extra time and may require a second meeting, whereas plurality is fast but can allow a candidate to win without broad support. What matters most is that the club settles on the rule first. Deciding afterward, once the votes are already counted, could look like an attempt to favor a particular person. When the rule is fair and known in advance, even those who lose are able to accept the outcome.

Questions

1. How many votes did Ana receive?

_____

_____

2. How many votes are needed for a majority in a club of twenty?

_____

_____

3. How is a runoff described?

_____

_____

4. What weakness does the plurality rule have?

_____

_____

5. Why should a club settle on its counting rule before voting?

_____

_____

6. What makes a runoff worth the extra time?

_____

_____

Words to know

plurality: the most votes, even if not more than half
majority: more than half of the votes
runoff: a second vote between the top two candidates
candidates: people who are trying to win an election
rule: a set way of doing something that everyone agrees to follow

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: Three Ways to Count a Club Election

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

Circle: Three Ways to Count a Club Election

Easier · 195 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 2.6

1. Eight.
2. Eleven.
3. A second vote with only the top two.
4. Most of the club may have voted for someone else.
5. Picking after the count could look like helping a favorite.
6. More of the club backs the winner.

Triangle: Three Ways to Count a Club Election

This passage · 217 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 5.5

1. Eight.
2. Eleven.
3. A second vote between only the top two candidates.
4. Most of the club may have voted for someone else.
5. Choosing afterward could look like an attempt to help a favorite.
6. The winner has wider support from the club.

Square: Three Ways to Count a Club Election

Harder · 239 words · Flesch-Kincaid grade 7.7

1. Eight.
2. Eleven.
3. A second vote limited to the top two candidates.
4. Most of the club may have voted for someone else.
5. Deciding afterward could look like an attempt to favor a particular person.
6. The result rests on wider support from the club.