



Teacher's Guide

A step-by-step guide for running a campaign and an election in the classroom

This teacher's guide mirrors the student's guide for holding an election, but with further tips and links for the teacher. The student guide has been designed to support students learning about political campaigns, elections, and how the results are reflected in the House of Representatives at Parliament. This step-by-step resource can be adapted to suit the number of students participating. It can be used as a single activity, or in conjunction with other resources to further develop their knowledge and understanding of the functions of Parliament and the election process.

After completing the activities, use the [Create your own Parliament](#) tool on the New Zealand Parliament website. Input your results and visualise the composition of your Parliament. This can be done by the teacher for the classroom, or by each group of students.

Visit the [Educators and Students section](#) of the New Zealand Parliament website to find supporting learning resources including an introduction to the activities and extension learning task, campaign templates for each party and voting papers.

Activities

OVERVIEW

This activity can be used as preparation for using the Create your own Parliament digital tool.

For indepth resources on making choices, being heard and voting see the Electoral Commission's resources in the column to the right.

Outline whether students should complete their campaign tasks digitally, on paper or a combination of these.

FORM A PARTY

Group students to form political parties. This can be done by the teacher or students.

Use the Create your own Parliament tool to allocate party names for each group.

Party templates can be distributed.

Now a few decisions!

- ☐ Encourage each group to discuss two or three things they would like to change in New Zealand? How will they achieve this? These will be their **policies**.
- ☐ Ask each group to nominate one person who would like to be elected to represent your **electorate** (classroom). Each electorate **candidate** may also like to decide a policy specifically relating to your electorate.

CAMPAIGN

Each party will create a plan for their campaign. Ask each group to discuss how they would like to announce their policies, where they will visit, which communities they will want to meet with, what events they will host or attend.

Ask each party to design a **logo** and a **slogan** for their party. Distribute the templates to

Examples of what they can prepare:

- ☐ Posters (digital or on paper) with different policies (which could be used for advertising).
- ☐ Pamphlets/flyers to hand out to their classmates (that may be handed out or posted into a mailbox).
- ☐ Social media posts (what they would like to say to an audience with accompanying images).
- ☐ Plan locations, events and communities to visit on their campaign trail, what they would do and say there to promote their policies.

Each party may also like to complete the extension task, to plan their budget for their campaign.

Helpful tips

- ☐ Check out the Electoral Commission's learning resources:

<https://elections.nz/your-community/teaching-voting-at-schools/>

- ☐ A glossary of terms used can be found on the student activity resource
- ☐ Party templates for students to plan their policies, logos and slogans is available for download:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/resources>

- ☐ Encourage students to research existing material from each of the parties
- ☐ The extension task for students to plan their budget is available available for download as part of the *Introduction to activities and extension task* resource:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/resources>



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CONVINCE



Ask groups to present their party's campaign ideas back to your classroom.

- ☐ Talk about their policies, your logo, your slogan, and your campaign trail
- ☐ Electorate candidates may also like to present their ideas for your electorate.

HOLD AN ELECTION



Distribute the voting papers. Ask students to vote for a person and a political party (but not their own). You will be a **returning officer** (or you may ask one of the students to be impartial and take on this role)

- ☐ Remind students that their vote will be for another political party. Ask students to think about the policies of other parties to decide who to vote for.
- ☐ They will also have a second vote for someone to represent the **electorate** (classroom).

CREATE YOUR OWN PARLIAMENT



Use the Create your own Parliament interactive tool on New Zealand Parliament's website to enter the results of your election. You will see your class's results illustrated in the seating plan. This can be done in groups or as a class.

A **majority** is needed to form a **government**. If no one party has the majority, parties will need to negotiate with other parties to form an agreement to govern together. This is often called a **coalition**.

If no one party has the majority, suggest parties to negotiate to see who can form a government. Coalition governments have shared policies, so they may need to work out what their shared government policies will be.

Drag and drop each party in the Create your own Parliament tool to rearrange the order. Parties are automatically populated counterclockwise from the government benches (top left) to the opposition benches (top right).

Congratulations to the new Government and everyone who has won a seat in Parliament!

REFLECTION



Three reflection questions are given in the student guide. The questions encourage students to think about what they enjoyed, what they would like to do differently if they were to campaign and hold an election again, and what new things they have learnt from the overall.

- ☐ Videos of political party campaign launches and announcements can be found online.

- ☐ Voting papers are available for download:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/resources>

- ☐ Create your own Parliament tool is found under Educators and Students:

<https://www.parliament.nz/en/visit-and-learn/educators-and-students/create-your-own-parliament/>