A stylized, high-contrast illustration of a person in a dark suit and tie, holding a large, dark megaphone over their head. The background is a solid dark red color.

LESSON PLANS  
AND ACTIVITIES

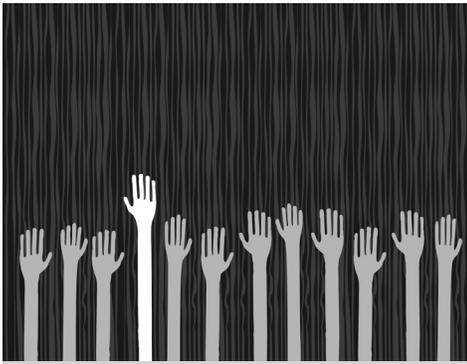
Expanding the  
Right to Vote and  
Youth Participation

Grade 9

**YOUR**  
**power** **TO**  
**CHOOSE**

ElectionsManitoba





# GRADE 9

## Supports

### Curriculum Outcomes:

9-KC-011

9-KC-014

## Resources/Materials

- Coloured index cards (included)
- Take a Stand Statements
- Qualified Voters Role Cards
- For and Against Ballots
- Ballot box or envelope
- Past and Present Fact Cards and answer key

## Lesson Objectives

Students learn about citizenship and participation:

- Assumptions about government
- Disenfranchisement
- Youth participation

## Teaching Strategies

- Take a Stand
- Role Play
- Microteaching

## Activating Strategy

### Take a Stand Activity

1. Start by passing out five coloured pieces of paper to each student. Write the following words on the board:

- Red (Strongly Disagree)
- Yellow (Disagree)
- Blue (Agree)
- Green (Strongly Agree)
- White (Neutral)

2. Ask students to spread out in the classroom.

3. Read the first statement from Take a Stand (see page 4) and ask students to take a position on the subject by holding up the card of their choice.

4. Ask students to find someone with a different card than their own and discuss for a minute why they feel the way they do.

5. Continue the exercise, reading one statement at a time.

**NOTE: This activity can be used as an activating strategy for five to ten minutes OR it could also take the entire class period. To extend the length of the activity, ask the pairs to share one sentence about their position on the issue with the class.**



# Acquiring Strategy

## Personal Thinking First Activity

1. Introduce the class to the issue of low voter turnout, especially among youth. Tell students that most young people between the ages of 18 and 24 do not vote.
2. Ask students individually to take a few minutes to come up with a list of reasons why they believe young people are not participating in the electoral process.
3. Once students have worked individually on their list, ask each student to share one item from his/her list with the class until everyone has had a chance to share their responses (without repetition).
4. As students are sharing their list, write the answers down on the board so that a class list is created.

## Applying Strategy

### Microteaching Activity

1. Divide the class into groups of three or four students and ask students to pick two reasons from the list. (Have groups sign up for issues to avoid duplication.)
2. Each group must come up with two incentives for each reason.
3. Each group will present their findings in the format of their choice (handout, poster etc.) to the class.
4. Students will be expected to take down notes during presentations or follow along with handouts if supplied by the presenting group.

## Debriefing Strategy

### Three-Minute Paper Activity

1. Ask students to reflect on the lesson by writing about what they learned. Give three minutes to write a paragraph. Encourage them to write down any questions or comments about the lesson that they may have.

Earn a 

This activity can be discussed as a class or handed in for marks.

# TAKE A STAND STATEMENTS

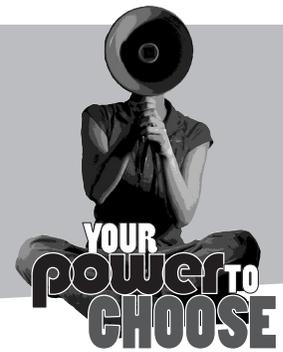
## Pre-election Experience



1. The candidate is accountable to the voters.
2. The media can have an influence on a candidate's image.
3. My vote makes a difference.
4. Voting is a responsibility and a right. We should exercise our right to vote.
5. Elections in Manitoba are conducted fairly.
6. The provincial government has no role in my day to day life.
7. The voting age should be lowered to 16.
8. All residents of Manitoba should be eligible to vote.

# ELIGIBLE VOTERS ROLE CARDS

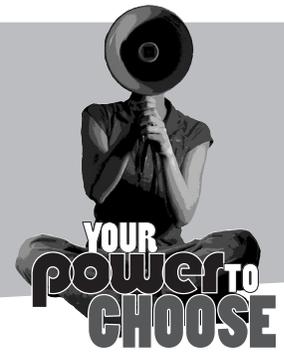
## Pre-election Experience



Male owning property	70-year-old female in hospital	24-year-old female working in a general store	Male owning property	Male just recently immigrated from Africa to Canada
Single mother of four children	Male owning property	70-year-old female in hospital	Indigenous male not owning property	Female teacher born in Manitoba
Indigenous female	22-year-old male serving life in prison	Male owning property	Female farmer with two children	Male just recently immigrated from China to Canada
Indigenous male not owning property	Indigenous male not owning property	65-year-old female admitted in a mental health care facility	Male owning property	Female teacher born in Manitoba
21-year-old female attending university	Female farmer with two children	18-year-old female serving time in prison for armed robbery	Male owning property	23-year-old female married with one daughter
65-year-old female admitted in a mental health care facility	21-year-old male admitted in a mental health care facility	Female farmer with two children	24-year-old female working in a general store	21-year-old male owning property

# FOR AND AGAINST BALLOTS

## Pre-election Experience



**for**

**against**

**for**

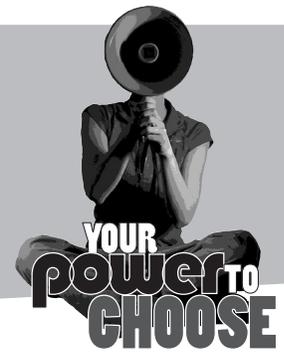
**against**

**for**

**against**

# PAST AND PRESENT FACT CARDS

## Pre-election Experience



You must own property to vote.

Patients in mental health care facilities can vote.

If you can't make it to your voting station on election day, you can vote ahead of time at an advance voting station.

People in correctional facilities cannot vote.

Women cannot vote.

The voting age is 18.

Hospital patients can vote from their hospital beds.

Voting is done by secret ballot – no one will know who you vote for.

# PAST AND PRESENT FACT CARDS

## ANSWER KEY

### Pre-election Experience



#### Elections in 1870 (past)

- You must be male and own property to be eligible to vote.
- There is just one day of voting.
- The voting process consists of a meeting where you must stand up and announce to everyone who you want to vote for.

#### Elections Today (present)

You can vote in a Manitoba provincial election if you:

- are a Canadian citizen
- are 18 years of age
- have lived in Manitoba for at least six months

- 1888 The secret ballot is introduced.
- 1916 Manitoba becomes the first province to allow women to vote.
- 1932 Indigenous peoples are allowed to vote, but only if they join the army. In 1952, the law is changed to allow all Treaty Indians\* to vote. In 1960, formal segregation of First Nations people was abolished in Western Canada and all Indigenous peoples were invited to participate in Manitoba elections.
- 1932 Advance voting is available for people who want to vote but will be away on voting day.
- 1962 Hospital patients can vote for the first time.
- 1969 The voting age is lowered from 21 to 18.
- 1988 Patients in mental health care facilities can vote.
- 1988 People in correctional facilities can vote.

\* *Treaty Indian* is a legal term used to describe an Indigenous person who belongs to a First Nation that signed a treaty with the government.