



## Introduction

### Toronto Municipal Elections Activities

This compilation of activities is designed as a supplementary curriculum resource for Grade 10 Civics teachers to utilize in anticipation of the Toronto municipal elections scheduled for October, 2014. The goal of the resource is to provide teachers with a variety of material to support student learning and understanding of municipal government and election processes. The activities can be utilized individually, as an augmentation to the teaching of municipal government, and/or as a part of a unit on elections, for example.

Subject and topic areas have been selected to cover aspects of municipal government that are important for furthering the development of students as responsible citizens. The activities offer many relevant and personal connections to the lives of students in the City of Toronto ranging from examining controversial urban issues to exploring local community needs to understanding their role in the shaping of city budgets, planning and politics.

Students are introduced to and given an opportunity to practice and apply the skills of political inquiry research, detecting and presenting points of view in written and role-playing activities, engaging in oral, written and visual presentations, as well as in argumentative, persuasive and reflective writing. Problem-based literacy and learning strategies are infused throughout the resource to help strengthen the skill-sets of diverse learners.

Overall, the focus of the resource is to excite and engage students in activities fundamental to municipal government and democratic citizenship. By inviting students to critically think about and consider civic responsibilities from personal, conceptual and diverse perspectives through a range of activities, students are able to move progressively towards a deeper understanding of citizenship and the processes through which they can effect positive change in their city.

# Activity Chart

Activity	Learning Strategies/ Graphic Organizers
1. City of Toronto Budget Activity: Where Do You Think the City of Toronto Should Spend its Budget?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Concept Pattern Organizer</li> <li>• Budget Organizers</li> <li>• Pie Charts</li> <li>• Word Web Cluster</li> </ul>
2. City of Toronto Services Activity: How Do You Think the City of Toronto Can Improve Services That Are Important to You?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Word Web Cluster</li> <li>• Ranking Order of Importance</li> <li>• Creative Thinking</li> </ul>
3. Exploring Different Levels of Government Activity: Should The City of Toronto Become a Canadian Province?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Quick Write</li> <li>• T-Chart</li> <li>• Take a Position Line</li> <li>• Both Sides Now</li> </ul>
4. Exploring Controversial City Issues Activity: “Not In My Backyard!” (NIMBY)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• ABC List</li> <li>• K-W-H-L Activity</li> <li>• Placemat</li> </ul>
5. Toronto Mayoral Candidate Hot Seat Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Drama Technique</li> <li>• Persuasive Writing</li> </ul>
6. School Board Trustees Activity: Making Tough Choices - Exploring the Issue of School Closures	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Skim/Scan</li> <li>• Vocabulary Lists</li> <li>• Three Level Questioning</li> <li>• Jigsaw</li> <li>• (D) RAFT</li> </ul>
7. Municipal Elections and Citizenship Activity: Comparing the Federal and Municipal Election Processes and Exploring Citizenship and the Right to Vote	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Organizer</li> <li>• Venn Diagram</li> <li>• Four Corners</li> <li>• Exit Slip</li> </ul>
8. Making a Difference in Your Community: Passing a City of Toronto By-law Activity	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Pass It On</li> <li>• Group Writing</li> <li>• Both Sides Now</li> </ul>
9. Questioning Political Quotes Activity: Why Did the Mayoral Candidate Say That?	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Research Organizer</li> <li>• Drawing Inferences</li> <li>• Reflection Writing</li> </ul>

## Resources

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