

Focus on activity: Elections

Target audience (age): Ensino Médio

Lesson link: ENEM practice

Aim: reading comprehension strategies with focus on short texts about elections

Duration: 20-30 minutes

Organization: individual work, group work

Material: text worksheets, internet access, videos, slips with sentences

Preparation: have worksheet copies ready, watch the videos, have one slip per student ready

Links accessed on 10/6/2014:

http://upload.wikimedia.org/wikipedia/commons/2/2a/Urna_eletr%C3%B4nica.jpeg

http://techpresident.com/files/imagecache/techpresident_leader/BVM.jpg

<http://www.tolonews.com/en/election-2014/12270-initial-afghan-election-polling-reveals-three-favorites>

<http://images-2.domain.com.au/2013/01/10/3942121/art-voting2-620x349.jpg>

<http://minivannews.com/files/2013/11/voter-finger-2.jpg>

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6oRFeOI3Qw> (1'49")

<http://youtu.be/umXlZvPE5I> (1'06")

Procedure:

- Ask students if they had the chance to go to the poll locations with their relatives in 2014 elections. Use the questions below to warm them up for the topic:
Should voting be compulsory?/ What comes to mind when you hear the word 'voting'?/ What do you think is the most important political issue at the moment?/ Do you think too much money is spent on political campaigns? Where does the money for campaigns come from?/ People sometimes say, "If you don't vote, you have no right to complain about a government." What do you think about that?
- Hand them the worksheets and ask students to check the voting systems they think were used in 2014.
- Ask them if they heard of technical problems with the systems used in the country.
- Divide students into pairs and play the video <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h6oRFeOI3Qw> (1'49" – accessed on 10/6/2014) so they can answer *true* or *false*. Play it at least twice. Then correct the activity.
- Have students read the texts and answer the questions. You can also play the video related to text 2 <http://youtu.be/umXlZvPE5I> (1'06") accessed on 10/6/2014.
- Correct the answers.

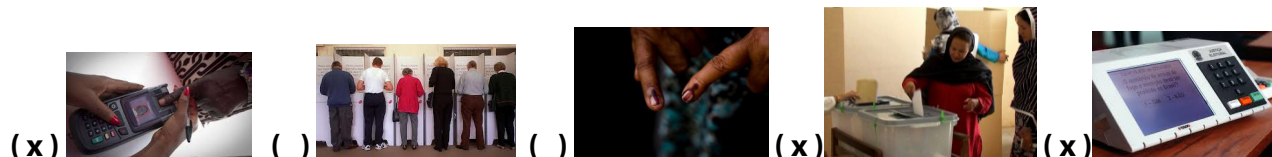
Wrap up: divide students into groups of four or five members and distribute one slip to each student. Have them talk about the questions and choose one student to present it to the other groups with their opinion about it.

Suggested slips

Why is being able to vote so important?
Do you like looking at election results on TV? Why?/Why not?
Is voting in elections for people who are generally not qualified to run a country the best way to run a country?
Do voting and elections make a difference?
What are the good and bad things about voting?
Does being able to vote mean your country is democratic?
From what age do you think people should be able to vote? Why?
How can we get more people to vote?
Would you vote for an actor or actress who runs for a government office? Why or why not?

Answer key

1. Check the voting systems used in Brazil:



2. Watch the video and check T (true) or F (false).

- On the eve of Brazil's presidential election, the Superior Electoral Court has dismissed reports that the country's electronic voting system is vulnerable to hacking. **T**
- The court's president, Jose Dias Toffoli, has acknowledged that hackers don't make frequent attempts to break into the electronic ballots. **F**
- More than 142 million Brazilians will go to the polls on Sunday. **T**
- O Globo* newspaper has reported that the voting machines were the target of 200,000 cyber attacks per second two weeks ago. **T**
- "The Electoral Court computer system is not attacked regularly, and we don't have a huge defense system in place," Mr. Toffoli explained. **F**
- The system was first used in Brazil in 1996 and the technology has since been exported to other countries. **T**
- The system usually delivers the election results within one or two hours of polls closing. **T**

3. Read the text.

Representatives from at least 24 countries, along with members of the Mercosur Parliament and international agencies like the Organization of American States, have confirmed their presence in Brazil for the Oct. 5 elections. The purpose of the delegations is to learn more about how the Brazilian voting system operates.

Lodging and transport costs are the visitors' responsibility. On election day, they will be following the activities at the voting places. "They'll have a chance to see the voting machines being started, the proceedings during the polls, the voting machines being put away, and, finally, the vote counting at TSE," Tarcisio Costa, from TSE's office for international affairs, told Agência Brasil.

<http://agenciabrasil.ebc.com.br/en/politica/noticia/2014-09/representatives-24-countries-expected-watch-brazil-elections> (accessed on 10/3/2014)

3.1. Escolha a resposta correta:

- ☐ Menos de 24 representantes de outros países estarão no Brasil durante as eleições de 5 de outubro.
- ☐ Apenas 24 representantes de outros países estarão no Brasil durante as eleições de 5 de outubro.
- ☒ Representantes de pelo menos 24 países e membros de agências internacionais do Mercosul estarão no Brasil durante as eleições de 5 de outubro.

3.2. Assinale a alternativa incorreta:

- ☐ O custo de hospedagem e transporte será de inteira responsabilidade dos visitantes.
- ☐ O plano é que visitem locais de votação e observem as urnas eletrônicas serem ligadas.
- ☒ Os representantes não poderão ver as urnas eletrônicas serem retiradas e a contagem de votos no TSE.
- ☐ Os representantes estão interessados em ver o processo de votação também.

4. Read the text and watch the video.

Brazil's 142 million registered voters are casting their ballots at the country's 450,000 polling stations. Voting is obligatory for literate citizens between 18 and 70 years of age. The voting system is fully automated, with electronic fingerprint identification and digital transmission of results. While in the 1989 presidential elections it took nine days before the final rally was announced, today the country will know the preliminary results three hours after polls close in the western states.

4.1. Assinale a alternativa incorreta:

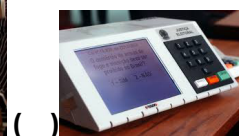
- ☐ Os brasileiros puderam dispor de 450.000 pontos de votação nesta eleição de 2014.
- ☐ De acordo com o texto, o sistema de votação foi completamente automatizado.
- ☐ Os sistemas utilizados foram o de urna eletrônica e o de biometria.
- ☒ As cédulas de voto também foram utilizadas por 142 milhões de brasileiros.

4.2. Assinale a alternativa correta.

- () Os resultados da eleição seriam obtidos em 9 horas.
- () Antigamente os resultados eram apresentados em 3 dias.
- () Os resultados reais seriam obtidos em 3 horas.
- (x) Apenas os resultados preliminares seriam obtidos em 3 horas.

Name _____ Date ____/____/____

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- f) The system was first used in Brazil in 1996 and the technology has since been exported to other countries. _____
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