

13.1 PROJECT

WHO WON? IT DEPENDS ON HOW YOU TALLY THE VOTES

In Section 13.1, you learned about five different methods for tallying votes from a preference table and explored how the different methods sometimes lead to different outcomes. Now it's time to start thinking about who might prefer which method in which situation.

As a recap, here are the methods to tally votes from a preference table.

- The **majority rule decision** means that the winner is supported by a majority of the voters; that is, more than 50% of the voters rank a single candidate in first place.
- The **plurality method** states that the candidate with the most first-place votes wins—majority or not.
- The **Borda count method** assigns each ranking a specific number of points based on how many candidates are in the election.
- The **plurality with elimination method** requires the winner to have a majority of the votes and uses a series of eliminations, if necessary, to choose the winner.
- The **pairwise comparison method** pairs each candidate with every other candidate in a head-to-head vote count.

Let's compare two of the methods by analyzing the pros and cons of each. Here are some reflection questions to guide your responses.

- a. In what situation might a person prefer this method?
 - b. Who stands to benefit from this method?
 - c. Who is least likely to benefit from this method?
 - d. What is a real-world example where this method is used? (This may require some internet research.)
1. Select any two of the methods for tallying votes from a preference table.
Method 1: _____
Method 2: _____
 2. Describe an advantage of your chosen Method 1.
 3. Describe a downside of your chosen Method 1.
 4. Describe an advantage of your chosen Method 2.
 5. Describe a downside of your chosen Method 2.
 6. Give an example where a person would prefer one of your chosen methods over the other. State clearly which method is preferred from that person's perspective and why.