

**Liste B: Thesenspiel: wahlzeit! Warum wählen?**  
**ELECTION TIME – WHY VOTE?**

- Imagine there's an election and no-one turned up (took part). What would it matter?
- If I don't use my vote, I can't then complain when others take decisions for me.
- Democratic elections are a great historic achievement
- Small political parties are in a better position to take the interests of minorities into consideration who have no parliamentary representation.
- If I want to support my favourite political party I have to vote, don't I?
- My vote gives me the opportunity to influence the future of my country. That's what the right to vote is all about. (That's why I vote)
- Most politicians are motivated by inner conviction (their beliefs) and not a desire for power (because they want power).
- Voters should pass a test demonstrating their knowledge of the electoral system and the parties involved before they're allowed to vote.
- The low level of voter turnout is a disgrace to our democracy.
- I think refusing to vote is fundamentally undemocratic.
- It's important to have a choice between the different political parties.
- All voters should attend (go to) party political meetings as they are the best places to get information about their political goals.
- I can contact my MP [political representative] whenever I like. That's why constituencies are important.
- A large turnout is no guarantee of a healthy democracy. The former GDR used to have a turnout of almost 100%.
- To register a protest, you have to vote even if it's only a spoilt ballot.
- Since the formation of a coalition is the inevitable outcome (is very common) at the end of most elections, the parties concerned should be prepared to compromise.
- Election slogans have to be simple and popular so that voters get the message and understand the main policies.
- The aims of the different political parties are almost impossible to distinguish.
- Obviously no political party which presents complicated or unpopular policies will ever be elected.
- During the election campaign it is possible to discuss issues with the candidates and exert direct influence on their policies (influence their policies directly).
- Politicians should do more to encourage voter turnout.
- Political parties should make sure that all levels of society are represented when they select candidates.
- Elections are the most important and most effective way of becoming involved in the democratic process.
- Political parties are all basically the same.
- Voters who are well-informed about political parties and their manifestos are aware of the differences between them.
- "Equal rights for everyone" is just a slogan. After all, children are citizens but they can't vote even if they are well-informed.
- Parliament doesn't really reflect the composition of our society. That's not right
- The number of MP's should depend on voter turnout.
- Voting should be compulsory in Germany as it is in some other countries.

- If a large turnout is not really important for a democracy, I may as well stay at home.
- Freedom in a democracy means you have the right not to vote.
- We ought to be grateful and proud to have the vote. In many other countries throughout the world people have to fight for free elections.
- The voter turnout would be much higher if you could vote directly for the Prime Minister [Chancellor].
- People who don't vote are basically satisfied with the status quo (how things are).
- Elections are the most important and most effective way of becoming involved in the democratic process.
- Political systems run by a single party often lead to dictatorship. That's a real danger.
- A spoilt ballot is a sign of participation, even if it has no influence on the final outcome (result).
- Democracy works even if very few people actually vote.
- Expensive election campaigns should be banned.
- Taking part in grass roots initiatives and similar activities is a better way of engaging in political activity than just casting your vote (going to vote).
- Voters should be able to vote for candidates in caucuses [selection rounds] as they do in the US.
- People aren't really interested in politics so why should they go out and vote?
- If people could participate in the choice of candidates, they would be better-informed and would be more willing to vote.
- The second vote [double voting system] should be abolished in favour of (be replaced by) one simple majority vote. This ensures that the final results and responsibilities are clearer.
- Children should be allowed to vote (or be represented by their parents) since they will have to live longer under the consequences of political decisions.
- If you don't vote, you support the enemies of democracy instead of those who are committed to the political process. (support the political process)
- Political parties only attack each other during political campaigns.
- By abstaining (not voting) I can put more pressure on politicians than by voting.
- If political parties only react when turnout is low, they are clearly out of touch with reality.
- Future MP's should be selected from the population at random, and be obliged to serve, just like jurors.
- The 5% rule discriminates against small political parties so it should be abolished.
- Once they're in office, MP's only promote their own interests.
- MP's forget their voters until it's time for the next election.
- Only people who are well-informed and familiar with the different political parties should vote.
- It doesn't really matter whether you vote or not.
- In the end it's business interests that decide how society develops, not politicians.
- If there's no clear majority, parties have to adapt their policies. That's not a betrayal of their manifesto (That doesn't mean that they abandon their manifesto).