Ballot Method Match

How does each vote count?

FM.FD.A.22 "Analyze advantages and disadvantages of different types of ballot voting systems. a. Identify impacts of using a preferential ballot voting system and compare it to single candidate voting and other voting systems. b..."

NAME _____ DATE _____

RANKED-CHOICE BALLOT

Voters put candidates in order of preference. If the rules eliminate a candidate, a vote can move to the next ranked candidate still in the race.

In a music club race, a voter lists Lila first, Omar second, and Priya third.

ONE-CHOICE PLURALITY BALLOT

Voters select one candidate. The candidate with the most votes wins, even without more than half the votes.

In a library board race, a voter selects only Nia, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

1 SORT

8 items

For each item, circle RANKED or PLURALITY based on how voters mark ballots or how votes are counted.

1.	For mayor, voters number the candidates 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.	RANKED PLURALITY
2.	After the last-place candidate is removed, those ballots count for each voter's next remaining choice.	RANKED PLURALITY
3.	For school board, each voter marks one candidate. The candidate with the most marks wins.	RANKED PLURALITY
4.	For student president, voters list the candidates from favorite to least favorite.	RANKED PLURALITY
5.	In a city council race, voters each pick one candidate. The largest share, 42%, wins.	RANKED PLURALITY
6.	For team captain, each player checks one name. The name with the highest count wins.	RANKED PLURALITY
7.	In a county race, no first choice has a majority, so the last-place candidate is removed and votes move to next choices.	RANKED PLURALITY
8.	For class treasurer, voters pick only one name. Vote shares are 38%, 35%, and 27%, so the 38% candidate wins.	RANKED PLURALITY

2 PROVE IT

Explain your thinking

choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

ITEM # _____ **HOW I KNEW** _____

3 MAKE YOUR OWN

One of each

write one new ballot example for RANKED and one for PLURALITY.

RANKED _____

PLURALITY _____

CHALLENGE

A city switches from one-choice plurality to ranked-choice elimination, where a winner needs more than half of active votes. First-choice totals are 40%, 35%, and 25%. Explain the result under plurality and the next counting step under ranked choice.

ANSWER KEY

Ballot Method Match

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PART 1 · SORT

#	ITEM	CATEGORY	WHY
1	For mayor, voters number the candidates 1st, 2nd, and 3rd.	**RANKED**	Voters order candidates by preference.
2	After the last-place candidate is removed, those ballots count for each voter's next remaining choice.	**RANKED**	Votes transfer according to voters' rankings.
3	For school board, each voter marks one candidate. The candidate with the most marks wins.	**PLURALITY**	Each voter makes one selection, and the largest vote total wins.
4	For student president, voters list the candidates from favorite to least favorite.	**RANKED**	Voters rank the candidates.
5	In a city council race, voters each pick one candidate. The largest share, 42%, wins.	**PLURALITY**	A single selection can win by plurality without a majority.
6	For team captain, each player checks one name. The name with the highest count wins.	**PLURALITY**	Each player selects one candidate, and the most votes wins.
7	In a county race, no first choice has a majority, so the last-place candidate is removed and votes move to next choices.	**RANKED**	The count uses voters' next-ranked choices.
8	For class treasurer, voters pick only one name. Vote shares are 38%, 35%, and 27%, so the 38% candidate wins.	**PLURALITY**	One selection per voter is counted, and the largest share wins.

PART 2 · PROVE IT

Task: choose two items and explain how you knew where each belongs.
Accept any explanation that names the deciding feature from the rule box for the chosen item.

PART 3 · MAKE YOUR OWN (SAMPLE ANSWERS)

- **RANKED**: In a park committee election, each voter orders the candidates from first to third.
- **PLURALITY**: In a debate club election, each voter picks one candidate, and the candidate with the most votes wins.

Challenge: Under plurality, the candidate with 40% wins because that is the largest share. Under ranked choice, no candidate has more than half, so the 25% candidate is removed and those ballots move to each voter's next remaining choice.

For Part 2, accept explanations that point to a ranked list or vote transfer for RANKED, or one selection and the largest vote total for PLURALITY. The challenge shows how changing an election rule changes the counting process.