

Using Sampling Techniques in Class

For each sampling technique:

- Ask a survey question that is relevant to students in your class.
- Have students consider whether the survey results are representative of the whole class.
- Discuss the advantages and disadvantages of that sampling technique.
- Brainstorm other ways to collect data using the same sampling technique.

Some sample survey questions are:

- Do you get a good night's sleep most weeknights?
- After high school graduation, do you think you will take some time off to travel or work, go to college or university, or you are not sure yet?

How to Use Each Sampling Technique

- **Convenience sample:** Ask five students in close proximity a survey question. Exaggerate the ease with which you are able to ask these students. Do not ask students who are not within whispering distance.
- **Volunteer sample:** Ask a survey question where students are given the choice to participate or not.
- **Simple random sample:** Select five students in a visibly random manner (e.g., drawing names from a hat or drawing popsicle sticks) and ask each one a survey question.
- **Systematic sample:** Instead of placing names in a hat, shuffle the names, lay them out in a line, and select every fifth name. Ask each of these students a survey question.
- **Stratified random sample:** Ask a question where students are arranged in groups (e.g., by age, hair colour, etc.). Place the names of all students in the first group in a hat. Repeat for each of the other groups. Then, randomly draw the same number of names from each hat.