
Information for candidates

Students wishing to run for election as members of the executive committee of their student association must demonstrate aptitudes which reflect enthusiasm and determination. The message that they plan to give their electors must inspire confidence and be articulated in such a way as to meet elector expectations. Here are some tips that will help optimize the candidates' approach when dealing with their fellow students.

As a candidate, you must win the support of the electors. To achieve this goal, you must show electors that:

- you know how to take into account their interests and preferences, however different they may be;
- you have a good sense of organization, you know how to plan your time;
- you can work as a member of a team, be attentive to differing opinions and make the most of the strengths of others;
- you can demonstrate creativity, you are capable of finding original solutions and will be efficient regardless of the constraints;
- you express yourself clearly and know how to capture people's attention;
- you are available, approachable, ready to take part in meetings and training activities at lunch time or after classes;
- you are able to establish a relationship of trust with the staff members of your school;
- you are independent, responsible, honest and resourceful.

A FEW WORDS ABOUT THE ELECTION PERIOD

During the election period, which lasts about two weeks, you will have the opportunity to advertise, give speeches, promote your candidacy and explain your projects for your school's student association.

In accordance with the foregoing regulations, the election period comprises several steps, namely:

- the calling of elections;
- the preparation and revision of the list of electors;
- the filing of nomination papers;
- the election campaign;
- the polling day;
- the official announcement of the results.

The chief electoral officer will send you the detailed calendar of events as well as the regulations ensuring the holding of a fair and honest election. It is up to you to be properly informed.

ELECTION SPEECH: A VITAL TOOL

If the election regulations of your college level school provide for the holding of an election campaign - which they should - , the presentation of election speeches is an important step in the election campaign. As students do not know all of the candidates personally, they often wait for this moment to make their choice. As a candidate, it must be your goal to convince electors to put their trust in you. The content of your speech and the way you present it must persuade the audience that you have the skills needed to successfully accomplish the tasks that you will eventually be entrusted with.

Your challenge is to convey in a very short time, for example five minutes, information on you and your projects. That is why it is important to prepare your speech carefully. To do this, you can draw inspiration from the following points which many communicators have found to be very useful.

Introduction

- Even if you are introduced by another person, be sure to mention your name, to indicate your field of studies and to specify the nature of the position that you would like to hold. Remember that those people who don't know your name can't vote for you!
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Development

- Talk about one or two activities that you have already organized, for example, a group trip, a funding campaign or a play, whether it was in your school, a youth centre, a sports club or elsewhere. Explain how these experiences have allowed you to acquire and develop the skills needed for the position you hope to occupy.
- List one or two of your qualities, relating them to the position in question.
- State your objectives, explain their importance and specify how you plan to achieve them.

Conclusion

- Summarize, in a single sentence, the previous three points.
- Repeat your name and be sure to ask the students to vote for you.
- Thank the public.

HOW TO GIVE YOUR SPEECH

In addition to evaluating the content of your speech, students will react to how you present it. What you do or don't do will be just as important as if not more important than what you say. The following tips could be useful:

- It is not easy to go before a group, it can be frightening. Sitting behind a table or standing behind a lectern often helps allay your fear. It's as if the table or the lectern were a shield...
 - Arrange your text or your notes on the desk or the lectern. You don't want to have to hold a sheet that can conceal a part of your face or that can shake because you are nervous.
 - Remain still for a few seconds before beginning to speak. There is nothing like a few moments of silence to get a group to settle down and to capture the attention of your public.
 - Your hands are very useful communication tools. They support and illustrate what you say, often without your even realizing it. Don't put your hands in your pockets or fold your arms. Keep your hands and arms free.
 - Don't be a prisoner of your text. You may refer to it from time to time, but avoid reading or reciting it. Students want to hear you say something about yourself and your ideas. Give them what they want!
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