



Name: _____

Class: _____ Date: _____

JAM Campaign Speeches

An activity of "Thai people vote for change".

Read "**Thai people vote for change**" (page 13, *What's Up* June 2023). In May, Thailand held a general election. Very soon, Singapore will also have an election for its next president.

Before people vote for their leaders, politicians give many speeches. They try to convince people to vote for them. What if you were interested in being a country's president? What would you say in your campaign speeches?

Some people give very long speeches. But, when they appear on television, for instance, only short slices of their speeches are given. In which case, sometimes, it makes sense to keep speeches brief — even as short as just a minute. In fact, just-a-minute (JAM) speeches can be very effective if you prepare them well.

1. Form six teams by diving up your class into fairly equal numbers. Each team pretends to be a political party with candidates running to be elected as the president of a make-believe country. Give your country a made-up name.

OUR TEAM'S FICTIONAL COUNTRY: _____

2. Prepare your JAM speeches individually. That is, every student should write a one-minute speech, aiming for the position of president. The JAM speech should include (a) your concerns about the country (b) how you will fix them (c) why you would be a better president than anyone else in your class.
4. Deliver your speech within your team. Every team then selects three candidates to compete with the other teams' candidates. Team members should help their three candidates by making banners and creating chants to use before and after their candidates' speeches. Have fun!

OUR TEAM'S CANDIDATES: _____, _____, _____.

5. Conduct the campaign. Each team fields its three candidates. Every candidate speaks for only one minute. Teams support their candidates with their cheers and chants (but all remain silent while a candidate is speaking).
6. Vote, as a whole class, for the president of your fictitious country. Each student gets one vote.
7. Reflect on how a JAM speech is different from longer speeches. What are its pros and cons? Share your observations with other readers by emailing a note to letters@whatsup.sg.