



VOTE FOR ME!

1 I have had some difficult things to do before, but I don't think that I have ever tackled a task as challenging as the one I am undertaking at this very moment. I'm referring to the job of standing before you, my fellow classmates, in order to demonstrate that I should be your next school captain.

2 Being school captain is an immense job. It is the ultimate position for any student and you, the members of the school community, have to be confident that the person you elect to the captain's position is the best possible candidate.

I believe that I am that person.

3 Okay, so why me? What makes me think that of all the people who have put themselves forward for nomination, I would make the best school captain?

Well, perhaps you should know a little bit about me. My name is James and I have been a student at our school for five years. That's a long time. Some teachers might say too long — but during that period I've had the chance to become fully involved in school life and to take part in the wonderful opportunities our school offers. As a student at this school I have been fortunate to represent in areas as diverse as sport, debating, art and public speaking. I have been privileged to be chosen as a member of the School Representative Council, which is certainly valuable experience for anyone aspiring to the school captaincy.

4 I'm not the best dressed candidate and probably not the coolest, but what I am, is committed. If I take something on board, I make every effort to ensure that I fulfil the expectation made of me.

People who know me find that I am friendly and approachable. If you have something to ask or say, you'll find a receptive ear in me. As school captain I'd be someone who could listen to your concerns and actually be in a position to do something about them. Vote for me and you will find yourself with a hard-working, dedicated and enthusiastic school captain.

5 To some extent, I have also demonstrated nothing but the most professional behaviour

when dealing with teachers over the years. Hardly any of them have exploded with rage, and maybe only one thought about throttling me. Which reminds me — I'm very sorry about the prawn heads in your hubcaps, Mr Purcell. It would've been cool if you'd just laughed along with me, instead of giving me all those detentions. But, *water under the bridge*, as they say...

6 As school captain I would be in a position to help in maintaining expectations and reinforcing school policies. I would assist all members of our school community in developing initiatives and making sure that issues are acted upon. If you elect me to the school captaincy, I would be in a position to liaise between students and staff. This will establish a two-way line of communication, which will ensure that we are all working towards the same goal.

7 Of course, a captain is the very public face of a school and its students. The person you elect must be able to present our school in a positive manner. The school captain should nurture a community recognition that reflects favourably upon us all. Their actions and demeanour must bring credit to the school. I promise you that as school captain, I will set and maintain the highest levels of decorum and dignity. I want you to be proud to say, "That's my school captain!"

8 As captain, I would be entirely available for whatever the school might require of me. Attending meetings, sitting on committees, meet and greets — I would undertake these responsibilities with a committed enthusiasm.

Please, think about what I have said. When the time comes for you to cast your vote, be confident that the letters, J-A-M-E-S spell the undeniably best choice for your next school captain.



Questions

- James describes the school captain's job as
 - huge.
 - enormous.
 - immense.
- James put the prawn heads in the teacher's
 - nightcaps.
 - hubcaps.
 - kneecaps.
- Which of these three qualities does James use to describe himself?
 - friendly, approachable, dedicated
 - enthusiastic, cool, hard-working
 - committed, enthusiastic, well-dressed
- What is the hardest task James has ever undertaken?
 - trying to convince his fellow students to elect him as school captain
 - presenting the school in a positive manner
 - representing the school in sport, debating, art and public speaking
- Which of these statements is false?
 - James has been a member of the School Representative Council.
 - James has been at the school for five years.
 - James has been elected school captain.
- An example of a "meet and greet" occasion might be
 - attending a youth leadership conference.
 - playing in the school cricket team.
 - welcoming a visitor to the school assembly.

Vocabulary

Find words in the text that match the meanings below. The word is in the section shown in brackets.

- Enormous or extremely large (2)
- To be lucky or privileged (3)
- Open and ready to listen (4)
- Proposals or plans (6)
- The opposite of negative (7)

Grammar

Words that sound the same but have different meanings are called **Homophones**. E.g. **to**, **too** and **two**. Write the correct **Homophone** in these sentences from the text.

- I **would/wood** make the best school captain.
- Their/ There** actions must bring credit to the school.
- Some speeches are **too/to** long.
- Best choice for **your/you're** next school captain.

Back To The Text...

- In section 6, "... which will ensure that we are all working towards the same goal" is
 - fact.
 - opinion.
- What would be a good sub-heading for section 5?
 - Vote 4 James
 - Sorry Mr Purcell

- The purpose of this text is
 - to persuade.
 - to inform.

Sequencing

Look back through the card to find what we learn first. Choose **a** or **b**.

- James was not the best dressed person.
 - James got into trouble with Mr Purcell.
- James had been a member of the School Representative Council.
 - James had been at the school for five years.

Think About This

- The word *initiatives* in section 6 means
 - themselves.
 - initials.
 - talents.
 - schemes.
- James had an unblemished record at school.
 - true
 - false
- Look at the illustration on page 3. Who is likely to be sitting at the back of the stage?
 - the School Representative Council
 - the rest of the candidates
 - James' friends

Challenge Option

Writing: Write a short note thanking your classmates for voting you captain.