

## Noticing Comparisons: Class Election

Fiona had a problem: She did not know for whom to vote in the election for class president. Jessica, a cheerleader and one of the most popular kids in the class, was running. Jessica focused her campaign on the importance of building school spirit. In her speech, she talked about why that's important. Fiona had to give it to her. At least she talked about more than football and basketball. Jessica said it was just as important for people to support the Arts Festival and the choir. Fiona wondered how Jessica expected to do that. Fiona was a big ice cream fan, and she found herself often using ice cream metaphors to help her think about situations. So what was Jessica? Straight vanilla.

Skye was running too. She was one of the green kids who were always talking about some environmental issue. Unlike Jessica, she didn't talk about any school activities. Instead, she talked about the importance of recycling. She had really specific ideas about how to reduce waste, like starting a composting initiative. But jeez, she could sure go on and on and on. If Skye were an ice cream cone, she'd be a mint and vanilla swirl, heavy on the mint.

And then there was Jordan. Fiona was really surprised that he decided to run. She always thought Jordan was a burnout who didn't really care. But when she heard his speech, she was a bit surprised. He sure did more campaigning *against* things than *for* them. He wanted to get rid of the need to get passes to go to the restroom. And to abolish weekend homework. And no more rules about wearing hats to class. But he made his arguments in a surprisingly intellectual way. He talked about freedom and how students needed to have the ability to do more than school if they were to flourish. It was pretty interesting, really. Not like Skye who was kind of a one-trick pony and who went on and

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