

Part 7: Hustings Guide

1 Introduction

Hustings – or question time - is raw political campaigning, with the proverbial soapbox replaced by a stage and microphone. Hustings is an open forum for students to ask prospective candidates why they should vote for them. As a candidate it's your opportunity to show off why you're the best choice for this position.

Although there is a serious side to hustings, it also includes a lighter-hearted side that will test your ability to think on your feet and survive in the lively arena of student politics. Expect the unexpected.

2 What do I have to do?

2.1 The Speech

Firstly candidates are asked to make a three-minute speech. This is nothing to be worried about. By this stage you have already written your manifesto and answered your 10 questions, so you know your stuff! Just say why you want the position and what you will do if elected? Why should people vote for you? Why will you be better than your opponents?

2.2 The Questions

After the speeches are finished the audience can ask questions. A helpful hint is to bring along as many supporters as you can, and maybe even plant a few questions that you already have rehearsed the answers to.

2.3 The Challenge

The next part of the hustings is the fun part. As a sabbatical you'll often have to do things you don't want to and this is your perfect opportunity to learn. You will also always need to think on your feet in committees so again these tasks are incorporated in the games.

2.4 The Sing Song

Lastly, as if you haven't been through enough, you need to perform for the crowd. Candidates, candidates sing us a song! All candidates will sing a song as the last challenge for the hustings. Candidates can simply just sing their favourite song (along with background music) but we have found that past candidates like to re-write the words to a popular song and sing them. When it comes to your song be as innovative as possible as this is remembered by a lot of the voters and people remember them years on! Please ask in advance if you require any supporting materials such as access to audio visual aids like PowerPoint and projectors.