```
set variable (number of candidate comments) as 0
set variable (number of constituent comments) as 0
set variable (first date) as empty
for each (comment) in file | conversation thread.txt
   set variable (date) as a corresponding value from (comment)
   set variable (author) as a corresponding value from (comment)
   if
         (\mathsf{date}) < (\mathsf{first} \ \mathsf{date})
      set variable (first date) as (date)
    if
         author) is candidate
      set variable (number of candidate comments) as (number of candidate comments) + 1
    if
         author) is not candidate
      set variable (number of constituent comments) as (number of constituent comments) + 1
if
      date) during election period
         number of constituent comments) > 0
   if
      if <
            (number of candidate comments) > 2
         select thread for analysis
```