```
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)
        (date) < (first date)
     set variable (first date) as (date)
        (author) is candidate
     set variable (number of candidate comments) as (number of candidate comments) + 1
        (author) is not candidate
     set variable (number of constituent comments) as (number of constituent comments) + 1
     (date) during election period
        (number of constituent comments) > 0
           (number of candidate comments) \geq 2
        select thread for analysis
```