1086-M5-2946 **Christopher S Shaw*** (`cshaw@colum.edu`), Dept of Science and Mathematics, Columbia College Chicago, Chicago, IL 60605. *Voting Alliances: Using Politics to Motivate Combinatorial Counting.*

Consider an abstract situation in which a committee of voting members must make a selection from among a list. If all members vote completely at random, there is a relatively small chance that a single person from the list will receive a majority in an initial vote. In practice, however, such a vote would be made more complex, and a selection more likely, if the voters were to form alliances in which they agree to vote for the same person. We discuss several real-world examples of this scenario, from politics to reality television, and explain the mathematical probabilities involved at a level appropriate for an elementary probability class. (Received September 26, 2012)