

Topic 007 Grassroots Campaign

JODY: Hello and welcome to American Cafe! My name is Jody!

杨晨: 大家好，我是杨晨。Eh, Jody... 你拿了一堆什么东西啊？

JODY: Oh, this stuff? Let's see, I have political posters what else do I have flyers, you know, information sheets... Wow, I really have a lot of work to do!

杨晨: 一大堆工作你还这么高兴啊，为什么？

JODY: Well, I'm excited because the work is for a political grassroots campaign. See, I volunteered to hang posters and hand out flyers to people at subway stops.

杨晨: 噢，原来你是热衷于这种基层群众活动。

JODY: It's the best way for everyday citizens to get involved and make a difference! But hey, some of the people I met at a grassroots campaign meeting can explain that it much better than I. Let's hear from them. Here's Rudy who organized the meeting that I went to.

杨晨: 下面我们就来听听 Rudy 是怎么说的：

Rudy: My name is Rudy. I've lived in DC for a little under a year. And grassroots campaigning to me is a movement of people coming toward for a common cause, be it political or social, or whatever, banding together, working together to come to a common goal and hopefully be victorious in its outcome. The hierarchy is loose so everybody's voice counts. And in the end hopefully everyone is happy with the outcome.

杨晨: Rudy 总结的很好。他说基层活动就是为了共同的目的，大家聚集在一起，共同努力，最后获得成功。Jody, 你给大家解释一下 hierarchy 的意思好吗？

JODY: Okay! The hierarchy means the chain of command. And in a grassroots campaign the structure of the hierarchy is very loose. That means there's really no specific leader or boss.

杨晨: 对，这个 hierarchy 就是指挥系统，或者说体系。当然了，既然是基层群众运动，那么它的结构一定都是比较松散。

JODY: Right. And in a grassroots campaign everybody comes together for, as Rudy said, a common goal and contributes what they can.

杨晨: 那多好啊。每个人都是平等的，没有什么上下级之分。

JODY: Right, like a true democracy.

杨晨: 你说的一点没错。这一类的自发性群众活动正是美国民主的基础。

JODY: Here's another definition of grassroots campaigning that I liked a lot from Michael.

杨晨: 好, 我们再听听 Michael 的观点。

Michael Briggs: If I had to define grassroots campaigning, I would think that it's people working with each trying to really bring democracy to life, share ideas, get people involved behind their candidate, trying to change minds, and raise awareness about an issue or a politician.

杨晨: 哎, Jody, 我突然想到, grassroots campaign 这个说法是怎么来的呢?

JODY: Oh, you know, I was curious about the origin, or the roots, haha, get it? Grassroots...anyway. I was curious about that myself. So let's have Michael help us out again.

Michael Briggs: My understanding of it is that grass has roots that are very broad, and they're not very deep but they broad. The way grass grows is it sends its roots out and then sprouts and those sprouts send more and more roots out. So it's about a chain reaction or a growing web of people that over time come to life.

杨晨: 中文里的“grassroots”就是草根的意思。草的生命力很旺盛, 它的根部蔓延得很快, 用这个词来形容这种基层群众活动非常形象。另外, Michael 说的 chain reaction 就是连锁反应的意思。

JODY: The more people you reach out to, the more people they reach out to, and so on, and so on and so on. I'd say that joining a grassroots campaign is the best to empower yourself.

杨晨: 你说得没错。这种亲身参与确实有一种鼓舞人心的力量。

JODY: That's why a woman named Catayune joined a grassroots campaign to elect a political candidate.

Catayune: My name is Catayune and I live in Washington DC. I grew up in Ohio. Grassroots campaign helps me because it means that ideas and emphasis and energy comes up from the grassroots, from everyday citizens. So it helps empower everyday citizens to really have a voice in national politics.

杨晨: 你觉不觉得今天我们采访的这几个人他们都强调群众参与, 每个公民都应该发出自己的声音这样一种概念, 这也正是群众运动的意义所在。

JODY: Well, what do you think, Yang Chen. Joining a big group of people and fighting for the same common goal doesn't it sound exciting?

杨晨: 嗯, 太让人激动了。

JODY: You don't sound very 激动了. Come on let's go join everyone and take part in the grassroots campaign.

杨晨: 那就走吧, 还等什么呢?

JODY: Thanks for joining us on American Cafe. We gotta go! See ya!