
Model UN 101

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What is Model United Nations?



- MUN is a **simulation** of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies.
- In MUN, students represent **ambassadors** from UN Member States to debate current issues on the organization's agenda.
- While playing their roles as ambassadors, student "**delegates**" make speeches, prepare draft resolutions, negotiate with allies and adversaries, resolve conflicts, and navigate the Model UN conference rules of procedure - all in the interest of mobilizing international cooperation to resolve problems that affect countries all over the world.

Things to Keep in Mind

- The United Nations is an organization of Member States – not a world government
- UN is based on a principle of sovereign equality
- UNGA resolutions are non-binding – UNSC resolutions are subject to veto
- Central Tension: what countries want vs. what the world needs

Assigning Committees

- **Larger Committees:** Heavy focus on negotiation skills, less focus on public speaking
- **Smaller committees:** Students will have to speak frequently, and won't have to work hard to be part of a resolution bloc.
- **If everyone is a first time delegate:** consider the comfort level of public speaking and/or interest in topic being discussed.

How to Prepare

- **Research!!!**
- Read the Background Guide
 - Use the guiding questions as a place to start your research
- Students should research three different things, that make up the "content" of Model UN: their committee, their topic, and their country

Helpful Starting Points for Research

- **Topic Background:** Background guide of the topic provided by the conference, Google, the news, and other online research
- **Past international actions:** UN website, your committee's website, key treaties or resolutions mentioned in your background guide, UN or NGO reports
- **Country policy:** CIA World Factbook, your country's foreign ministry website, domestic programs within your country, and your country's voting record on key treaties or resolutions
- **Possible Solutions:** NGO or think tank policy recommendations, past UN resolutions that you'd like to change or expand on, and your own creativity!

How to efficiently use Google



Site:un.org "diamonds" + "criminal accountability UN"



Google Search

I'm Feeling Lucky

Helpful article: 20 Tips to use Google Search efficiently -

<http://www.lifehack.org/articles/technology/20-tips-use-google-search-efficiently.html>

Research Binders (optional)

- Rules of Procedure
- Committee UN website
- UN Charter
- CIA factbook
- Wikipedia
- Background Guide
- News Articles
- Resolutions, Treaties, and Conventions
- Speeches and Press Releases
- Op-Ed and Blog Articles and Academic Papers
- Original Ideas

Flow of Committee

- Dais - Head Chair, Vice Chair, Legal
- Roll Call
- Set the Agenda
- 3 Debate formats
 - Default - Speakers List
 - Moderated Caucus
 - Unmoderated Caucus
- Resolutions
- Voting Bloc



Parliamentary Procedure

- Motions
 - Motion to Open Debate
 - Motion for Moderated/Unmoderated Caucus
- Points of Inquiry
 - Use this when you wanted to ask a question
- Points of Order
 - Use this when you want to make a correction to the flow of committee
- Points of Personal Privilege
 - Use this to point out if you can't hear the speaker or if there are other issues impacting you as a person, rather than your country (like the room temperature)



Opening Speech

The Opening Speech typically lasts about **1 minute or 1 minute and 30 seconds** and is the first speech you give to the committee.

It is the **best opportunity** for you to explain your country policy and the key sub-issues you would like the committee to focus on.

Opening Speeches are the main way for countries to determine who they want to work with, so it's important to prepare a speech that conveys this.

Opening Speech



- Attention Grabber- The "Hook"
 - Interesting Facts
 - Quote
 - Questions
 - Story or Anecdote
- Make a Clear, Positive and Succinct Argument- The "Point"
 - Limited to a few main points to make speech memorable
 - Why - speak about components of problem that your plan will address and cite how the issues affect your country specifically
 - What - make clear statement of country's suggested solution and explain actionable plans
- Conclude with a Call to Action
 - Carve a clear path that leads audience towards what they can do to help implement solutions

Writing Resolutions



- 3 Main Parts
 - Header - committee name, sponsors, signatories, and topic
 - Preambulatory clauses - states all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue. The "Why" of the resolution
 - Operative clauses - states the solutions that the sponsors of the resolution propose to resolve the issues. Should specifically address the issues mentioned in the preambulatory clauses
- List of sample phrases on Best Delegate and UNA-USA website.
- Helpful tips:
 - Pass notes during Speakers' List
 - Form a team with similar goals and work together
- Resolutions will be better if students start by defining all the "subtopics" of the issue, and then start writing their clauses about those subtopics.

How to Dress for Success



- Dress Professionally
- For boys, this is a suit: pants, a matching jacket, a button-down dress shirt, and a tie.
- Conservative dress shoes and socks are also important. For girls, skirts and dresses may also be worn as long as they fall to a respectable length and do not expose a lot of skin.
- Appearance should be tidy and put together
- Look and feel confident!

Useful Sources

- [UNAUSA.org](https://unausa.org)



UNITED NATIONS ASSOCIATION
of the United States of America

A PROGRAM OF THE UNITED NATIONS FOUNDATION

- [Bestdelegate.com](https://bestdelegate.com)



Questions?

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