What is Model United Nations?

- MUN is a **simulation** of the UN General Assembly and other multilateral bodies.
- In MUN students represents **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

- UN 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 subject to veto
- Central Tension: what countries want vs. what the world needs
Assigning Committees

- **Newer delegates**: larger committees, less likely to be singled out.
- **Experienced delegates**: smaller committees, more likely to speak more often.
- **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

- Not only is it necessary to have a grasp on information about the country you are representing and its position on the policies being discussed, it is also important to understand the **UN body that your committee is representing**.
Helpful Starting Points for Research

- **Background of topic:** Background guide of the topic provided by the conference, Google, the news, Wikipedia (to frame the topic)
- **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”

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

- **Points of Motion**
  - 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
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 Grabbing Introduction
  ○ Interesting Facts
  ○ Quote
  ○ Questions
  ○ Story or Anecdote

● Make a Clear, Positive and Succinct Argument
  ○ 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
  ○ Heading - committee name, sponsors, signatories, and topic
  ○ Preambulatory clauses - states all the issues that the committee wants to resolve on this issue.
  ○ Operative clauses - states the solutions that the sponsors of the resolution proposes 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
How to Dress for Success

- Dress Professionally
- It includes wearing a suit, which is made up of pants, a matching jacket, a button-down dress shirt, and a tie.
- Conservative dress shoes and socks are also important. 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 is tidy and put together
- Look and feel confident!
Useful Sources

- UNAUSA.org
- Bestdelegate.com
Questions?

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