Model UN 101

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Best Delegate
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

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
- Bestdelegate.com
Questions?

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