Model United Nations – Guide to Winning

By Ofry Shatzky

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Intro

This guide is designed to help you achieve two objectives:

- Win an award in a Model UN setting
- Further enjoy the experience of an MUN Conference.

Note: If you do not have either objective, this guide is not for you. If you enjoy going to Model UN Conferences simply to sit in the back and make friends, this guide is not for you. If you enjoy going to Model UN Conferences simply to be an observer and watch the action play out, this guide is not for you.

The process of receiving an award automatically will achieve both objectives. Thus, this guide’s main purpose is to help you receive an award.

Key: While the entire guide has helpful comments, some specific comments are labeled as “TIPS” to express their general helpfulness and importance to the issue. If you are an experienced delegate and already know MUN procedure I suggest simply reading the tips, otherwise, I suggest reading everything.
How do you win an award in MUN?
Answer: Your chairs or “judges” moderate the entire conference. They determine the award you receive.

Who are these “chairs”?
Answer: They are College students who go to the University or College where your conference is set.

Why is this relevant?
Answer: Unless they major in Political Science or History (and even then!) they DO NOT know each country’s history and position in regards to your topics, they simply do not have the time to do that much extensive research. They simply predict/guess what rationally makes sense for your country.

How do you know your country’s position?
First identify the different groups of countries for your topic.
   a. Each topic can have different groups. Some examples of relevant distinctive groups:
      b. Underdeveloped, developing, developed
      c. Democratic, Authoritarian (strong government control on its citizens), or Theocracy (ruled by religious laws)
      d. Benefitting from free trade, Suffering from free trade
      e. Christian-based nation, Muslim-based nation, or Secular (country maintains no official religion, nor is associated with any)

How do you know what group you fall into?
Hours of research? NO!!
Scenario: I just received the country “Trinidad and Tobago” on a committee discussing human rights, where do I fall?

A quick search on Wikipedia will reveal that:

a. This country is an archipelago in the Caribbean Sea.

b. It follows a parliamentary system → It is a Democratic country → It believes in human rights.

c. Oil based economy. $28.65 billion GDP

d. No national religion.

e. No humanitarian crisis found from a quick scan on Wikipedia

This information is all the research you need. As far as you and your Chairs are concerned, it is fair to say Trinidad and Tobago would support strengthening human rights.

- Some other examples: Search “List of developed countries”, if you are not on it, you are a developing country (most likely). (You value policies which would economically help developing countries – maybe to the expense of developed countries)

- Are you an “Islamic Republic”? Do your men/women follow religious laws (clothing laws)? You are a theocratic nation! (You value religious rights of Muslims, but likely do not value human rights elsewhere)

- You now identified yourself in a relevant group for your topic(s) (Note: you might need to identify different groups and which one you are in for each one of your topics)

- This information becomes relevant later on in this guide.
How do you receive awards?
Answer: Your chairs or “judges” moderate the entire conference. They determine the award you receive.

How do they determine what award I should receive?
Answer: They follow a general rubric to “grade” or determine the success of each delegate on the night before the last day of the conference.

What are the main components of this rubric?
Answer: Each chair will judge a “successful delegate” differently, but here are some important elements all chairs normally look for in delegates.

1. The strength of your position paper: specifically how and what types of solutions you offer in your third paragraph. More info on this in Part 5.
2. Speaking often: this is probably the most important element. A successful delegate talks the entire committee whenever appropriate. More info on this in Part 3.
3. Making comments that fit your position. More info on this in Part 3.
4. Utilizing unmoderated caucuses to speak with other delegates. More info on this in Part 3.
5. Creating and/or leading a working paper. More info on this in Part 3.
6. Only sponsoring working papers that fit your position. More info on this in Part 3.
7. Maintaining the dress code. Pretty simple, but for girls, avoid wearing overly revealing articles of clothing.
8. The quality of your comments and your ability to speak. More info on this in Part 3.
9. The quality of your solutions, and your ability to make them. More info on this in Part 3 and Part 8.

If you maintain this rubric in your mind as you go through committee, this guide guarantees you will win an award.

Part 3 includes tips for every specific section of the rubric.
Speaking often

- A quiet delegate is a bad delegate, plain and simple. A good delegate always wants to express his/her opinion, on everything, no matter what.
- Coming to a committee requires you to be ready to talk at all times appropriate in Parliamentary procedure.
- What are the ways I can talk/voice my opinion in Model UN?
- When you first arrive at a committee, look at the way your room is shaped and where the chairs (that you will be sitting in) and where the Chairs (the judges/moderators) are located. You should always sit fairly close and in front of the Chair. If the chairs are organized in rows, the 2nd-3rd row is desired, but always maintain a location directly in front of the Chair (1st row is not advised as sometimes it can irritate the Chair). If your chair organization is different, decide appropriately as to where the Chair can see you best.
- You may only talk in Model UN in two different settings, a Moderated Caucus and the Speaker’s List (Unmoderated Caucuses are addressed later). These two procedures are approached differently.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Speaker’s List</th>
<th>Moderated Caucus</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>This is a list the Chair maintains with all delegates that wish to speak in regards to a certain topic.</td>
<td>Must be motioned by a delegate.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>It is normally a longer speaking time period then a Moderated Caucus.</td>
<td>Example motion: “Motion for a moderated caucus, 5 minutes, 30 second speaking time, to discuss religious rights”</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>In order to get on it, one must be picked by the Chair to be placed on it.</td>
<td>TIP: Setting a topic which you specifically want to address allows the moderated caucus to have a better aim and include a stronger debate. It also might lessen the amount of people</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
can be on it at one time.

- After a delegation speaks, they are crossed off the Speaker’s List and the following delegation speaks.
- Once you get placed on the Speaker’s List, you do not have to be called upon. When it is your country’s turn, you get to speak.
- TIP: As soon as you finish speaking for this procedure, immediately send a note to the chair requesting that you be placed on the Speaker’s List again. The smaller your committee, the more essential this becomes. Make this a Model UN habit.

who wish to talk about it, to allow you to have better chances of being picked on.

- All moderated caucuses MUST be voted on by the committee.
- If several moderated caucuses are proposed, the most “disruptive” is voted on first, till least disruptive.
- Example: A 10 minute moderated caucus is more disruptive then 5 minutes (time difference is the predominant definition of disruptive). Also, unmoderated caucuses are always considered more disruptive than moderated caucuses.
- TIP: If YOU are the one to propose a moderated caucus and YOUR motion gets passed, YOU get to go first. Thus, when appropriate, always strive to motion for a moderated caucus which you wish to get passed, as this gives you more opportunity to speak.

TIP: During a moderated caucus, your placard should ALWAYS BE UP 100% of the time. The only exception is if the Chair says, “Only people who have yet to talk in this Moderated Caucus”
and then, if this retains to you, bring down your placard. To know what types of comments you should make, continue reading.

Making Appropriate Comments

- You earlier defined what group your country fits in for each topic you will be discussing.
- Although the Chair does not research each individual country, they expect each delegate to make comments that relatively make sense for their position.
- If you represent the USA, and you begin discussing increasing further regulation on World Trade, you are DOING IT WRONG.
- If you represent China, and begin discussing the importance of protecting religious minorities, you are DOING IT WRONG.
- TIP: The less recognizable/known your country is, the more leeway you have in your comments. The more recognizable/known your county is, the less leeway you will have in your comments.
- TIP: If someone has just mentioned something which goes directly against your position, make sure to mention why you DISAGREE with it and what distinguishes your country’s beliefs.
- TIP: When speaking, one way to express knowledge of your own position is to start with “As a developing country, Madagascar believes ______.” This allows you to give a justification for your views. (Caution! Do not use this starter if you are unsure of your country’s group. If this is the case, refer to Part 1).
- TIP: Make sure the potential solutions you discuss to the issue at hand match your position. Avoid supporting solutions which contradict your position at all costs. More on this later.

Being Active During Unmoderated Caucuses

- Unmoderated caucuses are a procedure where every delegate is free to roam his/her committee and talk/work on whatever is necessary. Some Chairs wander around the room to see what each delegate is working on/discussing.
- TIP: Always be active during an Unmoderated Caucus. Either begin discussing/organizing a group of people that might wish to work with you, or begin writing clauses out for your solutions.
- TIP: Never be seen sleeping or doing nothing during an unmoderated caucus, this shows poor participation and the Chairs that walk around the room will note this immediately.

**Leading a Working Paper**

- Leading a working paper, or a collection of clauses which would be solutions to your respective issue, requires strong leadership and a solid understanding of the ideas/solutions you wish to pass.
- TIP: It is essential that you come to committee with a group of solutions for your topic. The better your ideas, the easier it will be for you to get other delegates to follow/want to work with you.
- TIP: Learning to write clauses is NOT DIFFICULT and will be explained later on in this guide, but coming up with solutions takes experience and knowledge of your topic. If you do not have any solutions, it is VERY DIFFICULT to lead a working paper.
- TIP: If you have solutions, find people that you feel confident working with, and find delegates whose nation’s policies agree with your own. A good way to get people to want to work with you is to discuss your solutions when speaking in a moderated caucus or Speaker’s List. Once people feel confident that your ideas sound good, they will likely wish to work with you on a working paper.

**Supporting Appropriate Working Papers/Solutions**

- If you do not feel comfortable being the main leader, there are other things you must take into account.
- TIP: Always ask whoever is leading a paper what the central dogma (or philosophical approach) of their working paper is. If their dogma does not fit your position, DO NOT WORK WITH THEM ON THEIR PAPER (even if they are your friends/people you like).
TIP: If you can make a paper fit your position by convincing the leader to make a compromise and slightly amend their solutions, it is fine to support such a paper.

TIP: Working papers are supported by having certain nations become “sponsors”. A sponsor of a working paper is far more significant than a signatory is. If you wish to see the paper discussed, you can be a signatory of it. Only be a sponsor if you agree and wish to work on said working paper with the person who is leading it.

TIP: Occasionally, some people will only allow you to become a sponsor of their working paper if you contribute some clauses of your own; this is discussed later in Part 8 of this guide.

Speaking Capabilities

- Public speaking is a skill some achieve with practice, and some achieve immediately.
- Regardless of how good you are at speaking, here are some tips as to how to speak well.
- TIP: Never write out what you want to say on a paper. This will most likely result in you trying to say it word for word and it will result in you stumbling and most likely freezing in your committee. It is best if you simply know in your head the general idea of what you wish to say. Remember, you never have to use all of your time, and if you are capable of making your point in 30 seconds when you have 1 minute to speak, there is no penalty for you finishing your comment at that point.
- TIP: Model UN speaking time periods stretch from 30 seconds to a minute at most. While 1 minute might seem like a long time, it really is not. If you retain one idea which you wish to express, it will most likely take up that entire 1 minute to say.
- TIP: If there are several comments you wish to make, write down bullet points of 2-3 words of what you would like to address on paper. As mentioned before, never write out entire speeches or comments.
• TIP: Unless you wish to bring up a paper with some bullet notes, avoid bringing up anything with you to read off of. This will result in you staring downward at the paper as opposed to staring at the people you should be talking to.

• As mentioned above, it is recommended for your placard to be up at all times, there are several ways to formulate comments to say.

• TIP: As you listen to a delegate make a comment, analyze what group/side that delegate is on, and what that specific delegate is trying to express. If you agree with said delegate, go up and make a comment about what you specifically agreed with and what needs to be addressed in a stronger manner. If you disagree with that delegate, formulate a response as to why you disagree with that delegate.

• TIP: Always think of ways to express your opinion about any former comments. This is a good way to formulate fast comments and keep your placard up at all times.

• TIP: Good comments to make are comments which express your own solutions to an issue, just another reason why you should always come prepared with your own solutions.

• TIP: NEVER FEEL RESTRICTED BY YOUR COUNTRY TO VOICE YOUR OPINION. As long as you know which group you fit into, YOU SHOULD ALWAYS HAVE AN OPINION ON ANY ISSUE. Being Indonesia should not affect your capability to voice your opinion in as opposed to being the United States of America.

Quality of Solutions

• This section will be better discussed further in Part 8 of this guide.

• TIP: Do not make silly, unrealistic, or inappropriate solutions or clauses for the topic at hand. Making those types of solutions (unless it is in the last committee session and the Chair deems it appropriate), shows that you are not taking the committee seriously and will significantly decrease your chance of obtaining any award.

Never discussing your own country’s history

- Often, in General Assembly committees (where the chances of being called on are rare as it is), when delegates go up for the first time in their committee, they may begin to discuss events that have occurred in their own country in relation to the issue or topic being discussed.

- TIP: In Model UN, the speaking time is very short (even Speaker’s List is just 1-2 minutes max.). It is not recommended that you ever discuss your own country’s history because it usually takes too much time away from actually making a substantive comment.

- TIP: When you go up to make a comment, jump right into what is relevant. Use your time wisely. Discuss solutions. Do not discuss the past. Speaking too much about one’s own history is normally a sign of an unprofessional delegate who does not have much to say.

Writing Clauses

- TIP: If you need to remember/learn clause writing format and/or words used in the beginning of clauses, search in Google “how to write clauses in MUN,” and you will find a sufficient amount of sites that will help you out.

Do not get lost in statistics

- “Simplicity, Simplicity, Simplicity” – Henry David Thoreau. To many people, including your fellow delegates and often the Chair, statistics are meaningless. For the most part, anyone can make them up, and while sometimes they may help drive home a point, they will most likely be ignored by others.

- TIP: Always avoid making a case for your argument using statistics and meaningless figures. It is always preferred if you can explain your arguments with logical step-by-step coherent thinking.
Treatment of the Chair

- Your Chair, in the long run, will be the people deciding who wins an award. If you get on the Chair’s bad side, or do something that might piss them off (even if you are being an excellent delegate), you risk a certain degree of what award you may or may not win.
- TIP: Be as polite as possible to your Chair for the 2-4 days of committee that you see them for.
- TIP: If the Chair offers some sort of out of committee event, such as maybe eating dinner or lunch with them, do not miss the opportunity. Knowing that your Chair likes you is an incredibly good determinant of what award you may win.
- TIP: Do not be scared of making small talk with your Chair. While you are supposed to treat them with respect, they are only college students, not mean teachers who dislike society.

How to Win Best Delegate

- You know that one person in your school’s MUN Club that always seems to win Outstanding, or even Best Delegate?
- He or she had figured out at some point the formula highlighted throughout this guide and has followed every inch of it. Disclaimer: Some delegates may not follow everything mentioned in this guide, and they may have won outstanding and even best delegate.
- The difference between a delegate who wins Outstanding and a delegate who wins Best is incredibly small. Both were most likely hard working, active, and intelligent delegates.
- TIP: If you know you are at the stage where you can win outstanding, but you have yet to ever win best, some suggestions you should consider: be friendly with the Chair (as mentioned previously), be a nice, yet aggressive, person in committee, and never discuss previously received awards – it is often considered a jinx.
Position Papers

- Most Model UN Conferences will require delegate to write position papers and either send them in before the conference begins, or hand them in during the first committee session.
- Not ALL conferences require position papers, and not all committees require position papers in a conference. Make sure that you check that the committee you are in / the conference you are attending specifically requires a position paper before you start writing one.
- While some may argue otherwise, it is largely a waste of time for one to write an entire position paper if it is not required for your committee/conference (more on this point later)

Standard Format

- For most committees, the standard format for a position paper is as follows:
  - First Paragraph – Introduction to the topic from an objective perspective (more on this later)
  - Second Paragraph – Summary of your country’s position on the topic / issue (more on this later)
  - Third Paragraph – Solutions for the topic from your country’s position/perspective. (more on this later)

- TIP: Not all committees require this format! Crisis committees, for example, normally have a completely unique format. More on this later.
- TIP: It is incredibly recommended that you read your background guide when you write your position paper (more on this later).
First Paragraph

- In this first paragraph of your position paper, the country that you represent should never once be mentioned. In contrast to the other two paragraphs, you should never make a statement such as “Bangladesh feels that the issue is ….” Or “Taiwan recalls when this happened…” Instead, you should be keeping third person and writing about the issue in a third person manner.

- The first paragraph is really where you can get historical (one of the few points in Model UN where history is actually really helpful).

- If the topic is “Women’s Rights in the Developing World”, discuss the issue of women’s rights from an international and historical perspective. For example, the paragraph may start by generally discussing achievements of women in all countries throughout the 20th century, and then lead into the struggles of women in the developing world. To conclude the paragraph, one should talk about the contemporary issue, or where women stand in the developing world as a whole.

- TIP: In the case of the first paragraph, if the topic name is unclear or ambiguous, it is INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT that you read your background guide and see how they define the issue themselves. The topic of globalization can imply completely different things in SOCHUM (which discusses social, cultural, and humanitarian issues) and the UNDP (which discusses economic development in developing and undeveloped nations).

- TIP: Although a former tip mentioned the importance of reading the background guide, it is INCREDIBLY IMPORTANT that you do not simply repeat what is written in the background guide nor should you ever copy it word for word (for that matter, you should never copy anything word for word; that is plagiarism).

- TIP: When discussing contemporary problems with the topic, feel free to discuss recently passed United Nations resolutions or specific country’s legislation and discuss its relation to the issue. I recommend only discussing the former as the latter might lead you to discuss your own country’s legislation, which should largely be reserved for paragraph two.
• **TIP:** In regards to the former tip, make sure not to go overboard on past resolutions, as then your first paragraph might become too long. Position paper length will be discussed later.

Second Paragraph

• The second paragraph of the position paper largely deals with the issue at hand from your own country’s position.
• In this paragraph, statements such as “In Uganda’s past …” can be used.
• This paragraph should essentially express two elements/ideas:
  - What happened in the past / what is happening in the present for your country in regards to the topic, and
  - What are your country’s views on the issue

• The first element does not apply to every country. For example, nuclear disarmament is a topic that is not completely appropriate to each nation. That being said, even if your country never needed to disarm any nuclear weapons, you should still try to discuss any nuclear-disarmament treaties/resolutions signed by your country or any unique legislation that your country has in regards to the issue. While most nations have signed and ratified the Nuclear Non-Proliferation Treaty, it is still appropriate to mention that your country happens to be one of said nations.
• The second element needed to be expressed in this paragraph will largely tie this paragraph to your third and last paragraph. In Part 1 of the guide, I explained how to know what your country’s position is on an issue. For the most part, the same method applied in Part 1 should be applied for your country’s position in your second paragraph. After some minimal yet appropriate research, you should explain how your country views the issue at hand and briefly explain why.
• For example, if a topic is “European Banning of the Hijab” (the Hijab refers to the head covering worn by women of the Islamic faith) and you represent an Islamic country, you should be fiercely expressing how insane and disrespectful it is for nations to ban this
type of clothing. You should also explain the cultural importance of Muslim women to wear said hair covering and why, as an Islamic country, you feel it is your duty to prevent such bans from taking place.

- TIP: If you still feel unsure about what your country’s position is, please reread that part of Part 1 or ask your MUN officer or your school’s politics teacher.

Third Paragraph

- Your third paragraph, or your “solution” paragraph, is largely the backbone of your ability to do well in a conference. As mentioned multiple times throughout this entire guide, your solutions are absolutely key to your success.
- In the third paragraph, you should immediately discuss what your nation proposes to do in regards to your topic. One way to start on the right foot is to look in your background guide for a “Questions that need Answered” section. This section, which may or may not exist, depending on your Chair and on the conference you attend, will give you some helpful hints as to where your solutions should be headed towards.
- TIP: Print and reread your background guide and highlight any major problems discussed or mentioned. On the margins, scribble down what you think could/should be done to fix the issue.
- For the most part, creating solutions is addressed in Part 8 of this guide.

Length

- Depending on the Chair and on the conference, there may or may not be a limit (a maximum or a minimum) to your position paper length. If there are no limits, my suggestion is keeping each topic’s position paper to 1.5 pages single spaced or 3 pages double spaced. Normally, my first two paragraphs take up a bit less than the first page (single spaced), while the third paragraph drags into the second page and fill up roughly half.
- TIP: The suggestion I gave for length is a very good estimate to follow. If you make your position paper too short, it might be regarded as not comprehensive enough. If you
make your position paper too long, it might distract or annoy the Chair, which is never desired when they begin to determine awards (as mentioned in the Part 4 section – Treatment of the Chair).

- **TIP:** Always make sure to see if a conference or your Chair has a specific limit on the position paper length. If it does/they do, in order to have an excellent position paper, it is vital that you follow the length guidelines they give you.
- **TIP:** In regards to each paragraph’s length, the third paragraph should undoubtedly be longer than the other two. The first and second paragraph may vary in which is longer depending on what you find appropriate, but should generally take up less than a full page together (single spaced).

**Why is Your Position Paper Relevant to Winning Awards?**

- This section will not explain why solutions in your position paper are important, as that has been discussed in other sections. Instead, this section will look at the “grading” part of your position paper.
- **NOT ALL CHAIRS/CONFERENCES** require position papers; this has been stated multiple times throughout this section.
- That being said, of those that do require position papers, **NOT ALL CHAIRS READ YOUR POSITION PAPER.**
- **BUT** – Some Chairs **DO READ YOUR POSITION PAPER,** in which case they may do two different things with it.
  - Take it into account when they are calculating awards in the end. More on this later. (Part A)
  - Grade it off some sort of rubric. More on this later. (Part B)
Part A

- In some large committees, the Chair might decide to only read the position papers of who they think are the top 10 to 15 delegates. Sometimes, the Chair is required to read all the position papers of all delegates. That being said, as mentioned in the rubric in Part 2, the position paper is often factored into the award the delegate receives.
- If you come to committee and immediately adopt another person’s ideas, and do very well in committee using those ideas, the Chair may read through your position paper and realize none of those ideas were actually yours. In this scenario, while will most likely receive some type of award in the committee, the Chair will hold back from giving you a potentially better award because your position paper showed that you did not really create your own ideas for the committee.
- The quality of your position paper is not the difference between getting no award and getting an award. The quality of your position paper is usually also not the difference between a verbal and an honorable. Both of these things are largely determined by how well you performed in committee. That being said, if you are shooting for Outstanding, or even Best Delegate, the quality of your position paper will likely be factored to help the Chair distinguish you above or below the other delegates.

Part B

- Some conferences give out best position paper awards. These awards are also determined by the quality of your position paper.
- Other conferences may grade your position paper off a rubric and hand it back to you sometime during the conference. In this scenario, everything mentioned in part A applies.
Special Section: Crisis Committee Position Papers

- Crisis committees, or very small advanced level committees, may occasionally require a unique position paper. Sometimes the committee will follow the standard position paper format outlined earlier in this section, sometimes it will have a unique assignment one must do.
- If the background guide for your crisis committee does not specify what type of position paper it wants, it is usually safe to assume they want you to use the standard format.
- TIP: If you want to be absolutely certain as to what your Chair expects of you, email him/her/them and ask him/her/them any questions you have about the committee’s position paper. Most Chairs will email you back in a matter of days with a very friendly response.
What is a crisis committee?
Answer: A crisis committee is one that requires delegates to deal with crises thrown at them by crisis staff. Virtually all conferences will have crisis staff. How does this guide define crisis committees?
Answer: This guide’s definition of crisis committees is any committees that do not function under the same type of parliamentary procedure that is standard for most Model UN committees and thus creates many aspects of this guide not as relevant (like for example drafting working papers, speaking on the speaker’s list, etc).

What is a crisis?
Answer: A crisis is a certain event that none of the delegates would have been prepared for nor knew about ahead of time. It is an event that must either be responded to immediately, or in a long run solution.

Crisis committees are a unique part of the Model UN experience as they will put delegates in a certain unique scenario and call upon delegates to act appropriately as a certain character in those scenarios.

In most cases, only the most experienced of delegates will be placed in crisis committees. This is not because they require a lot more historical or political knowledge; on the contrary, they occasionally require much less knowledge than do General Assembly committees. Crisis committees simply require a set of skills from the delegate that are slightly more difficult to master.

Similar to the rubric created in Part 2 of the guide, crisis committee Chairs also follow a slightly different rubric when analyzing how well each delegate does in their committee.
Crisis Committee Rubric

1. How well do you understand the scenario of the committee? More on this later.
2. How accurately do you represent your character in the committee? More on this later, and
3. How well do you understand the procedure/procedural abilities? More on this later.

Understanding the Scenario

- Crisis committees may very often be non-UN related committees. While the UN Security Council is a common crisis committee, other committees may include Armenia-Azerbaijan War Cabinet, Yugoslavian Civil War Cabinet, and many others. Just because a crisis committee is not actually associated with the United Nations does not mean it abandons central aspects of MUN.
- Crisis committees may be based off realistic historical, present, and future events, or completely made up fictional scenarios.
- Some examples include:
  - Historical: French Revolution Committee (1789), Bolshevik Revolution Committee (1917), Korean War Cabinet (1950-1953)
  - Future: Nuclear Crisis: Russia – United States (2022), Colombian – Venezuelan War (2018), Indian Civil War (2030)
  - Fictional: Robin Hood and the Lost Boys, Blackbeard and his Pirates, Mafia Wars – Chicago, 1984, Star Wars: The Clone Wars
- TIP: Regardless of what type of crisis committee one may be in, reading the entire background guide is incredibly important.
- TIP: If the crisis committee is either historical or set in the present, it is really helpful to go and read up on the event outside of just reading your background guide. For example, if the committee deals with a certain incident during the Cold War, it would be wise to go refresh your knowledge on that era, and read about what happened before, during, and after the event that your committee is dealing with.
• TIP: If the committee is fictional or set in the future, it is recommend that you know the background guide very well coming to the committee. One good way of doing so is to create a list with bullet points of every big/important event that is mentioned in the background guide. Remember, MUN is nothing like taking a test; you can have a sheet of paper with all your notes in front of you the entire committee.

Representation of your Character
• In crisis committees, except in the case of the UN Security Council, delegates hardly ever represent countries. Most of the time, delegates represent people, organizations, or certain characters. One may be a Foreign Minister of a country, a General of an army, a revolutionary, an important political leader, a representative of an NGO, or even a fictional made up character. In many cases, you may get a position of a real person, in which case, it is very easy to do outside research about your character’s position.

• As opposed to in large committees where one just represents their country, in crisis committees, the Chair will place close attention to how accurately each person is representing their position.

• TIP: If you are given the position of a real person, it is highly recommend that you go read about your person and who he/she is, and what he/she believes about the scenario you will be dealing with.

• TIP: If you are given a position of a fictional/made-up character, read very closely about your character’s role in the background guide, as that will be the only source of information about your character.

• TIP: If you feel like your character’s role may be limited or restricted inherently, ask the Chair either through email or before committee session starts how you can try to work around your position’s restriction. Often, for a fictional character, the less is written about your role, the more freedom you may potentially have as you would have to follow fewer guidelines.

Procedure and Procedural Abilities
• The crisis committee procedure is slightly different from the standard MUN parliamentary procedure. While each crisis committee generally functions slightly differently, and a lot
of it is in the Chair’s discretion, this is the general procedure that a crisis committee might follow:

- Many crisis committees will have an infinite moderated caucus with a set speaking time. The only other procedure that would be allowed is an optional unmoderated caucus that could be passed with a standard procedural vote.
- Some crisis committees, with the discretion of the Chair, will also include a Speaker’s List.
- TIP: All the tips that have been mentioned in Part 3 of the guide in regards to moderated and unmoderated caucuses and the Speaker’s List hold true in a crisis committee.
- While in all other MUN committees, the main goal of the committee is to pass a resolution to deal with the topic at hand, crisis committees hold slightly different objectives.
- In crisis committee two different solutions can be passed:
  1. Resolutions, and
  2. Directives

Resolutions

- Some crisis committees may follow the exact same procedure of resolution passing as normal committees. In which case, one would have to present a working paper with sponsors, and eventually vote and pass or not pass it as a resolution.
- Occasionally, some crisis committees will not require the working paper step, and immediately allow solutions to be introduced as resolutions.
- While in most other committees, resolution voting only happens in the very end of a topic, some crisis committees may allow for resolution voting and passing midway through a topic.
- The passing of resolutions is entirely up to the Chair’s discretion in each crisis committee.
- As opposed to directives, which will be discussed next, resolutions will not have real time consequences for the committee.
Directives
- Directives are uniquely part of crisis committees.
- Similar to working papers, they must be presented and voted on.
- In contrast to working papers, directives may be very short, and have just clear cut decisions that the committee wishes to make. The language of directives does not have to be in formal clause writing format. Directives can be passed at any time during a committee (as long as they are first introduced, and motioned to be voted upon).
- Once directives are passed, they are sent to the crisis staff, in which crisis has to decide on a certain way to respond to the action determined by the directive.
- An example of a directive in a war crisis committee may include: Move the troops based in Base 4 to the southern border. Order them to fire on any enemy movement they see.
- TIP: In a crisis committee, introducing and passing directives is looked very highly upon by the Chair when they have to decide awards. If you can come up with an appropriate directive to respond to an issue at hand, it is recommended you write up said directive as soon as possible.

Crisis Notes
- Another unique part of some crisis committees is that ability for delegates to send notes to the crisis staff. This is done simply by addressing a note “to: crisis”. Eventually, either you will receive a note back from crisis, or crisis staff will come to your committee and respond to your note.
- Said notes can be used in two separate ways:
  a. Asking specific questions
  b. Exercising some power your character has to have your own mini-directive

Asking Crisis Questions
- If the committee does allow sending notes to the crisis staff, delegates may seek to ask the crisis staff questions such as: what is X statistic, what is going on in X place, why is X attacking Y, and where is X hidden. As long as the question is related to the committee, it is the right of every delegate to ask crisis the question.
• TIP: Asking crisis staff questions, specifically appropriate and/or relevant ones shows that you know what to ask. Do not think that asking a question shows any type of weakness or bad preparation. On the contrary, this is just another element that the Chair may consider when judging how successful a delegate was in his/her crisis committee. Furthermore, you may be surprised to find how much some answers may help your position a lot more in committee.

Exercising Self Power

• In some committees, and in some positions, delegates may be able to utilize their own powers granted to them in committee to take some action by themselves through a crisis note. For example, a delegate acting as a general of an army might be capable of moving his troops unilaterally, without the knowledge or permission of other delegates.
• These types of powers are never explained by the Chair. Delegates must discover by trial and error, and by making appropriate guesses, as to what they can or cannot do.
• TIP: Similar to sending crisis questions, attempting to take action under the eyes of other delegates is looked very favorably upon by the Chair. Not all character will always be capable of exercising some sort of power. As mentioned previously, try different things out. Worst case scenario, crisis will send you a note back saying you do not have the power granted to take said action.

Press Releases

• Press releases are a minor part of crisis committees that may be used in different ways. In some committees, delegates may have the ability to create press releases, introduce them to the committee, vote and potentially pass them. They are normally news related statements, nothing like directives.
• TIP: This is just one more procedure in crisis committees that you, as a delegate, may want to look into to further your participation in the committee.
Special Section: Joint-Crisis Committees

- Most conferences will have at least one pair of crisis committees that are related in some way. These crisis committees will be handling the same issue, from the same time, but from a different perspective, and with different characters. Often, it will be two different sides of a war going on.

- TIP: One unique aspect of crisis committee is that you can somewhat interact with delegates from the opposite committee (if it is deemed appropriate). If you have a friend or know someone from the other committee that is in a joint crisis with yours, attempt to interact with said person to further extend your grasp and power in the committee.

- National Sovereignty – a term that will be used often in committee against anyone that will have a solution over reaching the boundaries of the UN.
- National Sovereignty is a term which essentially says that each country has the right to rule itself, and that the UN does not have the mandate to rule another country.
- TIP: To avoid running into issues with this term, make sure all of your solutions (when appropriate) either include “with the nation’s discretion” or always begin with language such as “suggests,” “encourages,” and “promotes”.

- Bureaucracy – a term used to describe government bodies and groups. Additional bureaucracy is often associated with a negative context.
- TIP: In your solutions, avoid creating new political groups or entities. If you wanted to create a new group which will do X, instead make the clause, the “Z committee will begin doing X” or even better “We should begin to do X”.
By this point in the guide, it is clear that having solutions is almost necessary for some types of MUN committees.

Before you continue reading, I would like to clarify that I am in no way endorsing working on clauses before a conference. That is almost always against conference rules. That being said, as discussed in Part 5, it is always possible to write solutions in your third paragraph, as long as they are not already in clause form.

As mentioned previously in Part 5 –having your own solutions makes you distinguishable from other delegates. When you create a working paper, the Chair can know from your position paper that those solutions are truly yours.

As mentioned before in Part 3 –having your own solutions also gives you the ability to almost always have something to say. Just like a firm trying to get as many advertisements on air as financially possible, you, as a delegate, will always be trying to be called on to “advertise” your ideas to the other delegates in order to make them want to work with you.

Learning how to come up with solutions for MUN is a skill that takes time to master. As a delegate in your first few committees, as a freshmen or sophomore, you may look at some of the solutions/clauses other experienced delegates may come up with and you might ask yourself “How the h*ll did these people learn how to come up with this stuff?” or “Did they copy these off some existing piece of legislation?”

Do not be fooled, none of the delegates in your committee are actual politicians in disguise. Quite the opposite, the clauses drafted in MUN may often be incredibly radical and never practical in any realistic piece of legislation.

While I cannot give you actual solutions for each topic that comes up in a MUN conference, I can try to give you hints and helpful tips as to how to approach the solution brain-storming process.
• Solutions, or when in a working paper, clauses, are split into two categories:
  1. Preambulatory Clauses, and
  2. Operative Clauses

Preambulatory Clauses
• Preambulatory clauses, or “preams”, do not constitute as actual solutions. Still, they are considered clauses, so I will briefly talk about them.
• Preambulatory causes are nonsubstantive clauses, that is, they do not hold substance. They do not do anything new. They mostly exist just to establish evident truths which may help serve as reasoning for a certain operative clause, or to establish a central dogma of the working paper.
• There are normally no more than 5 of them in any working paper, but many Chairs require that each paper at least has one or two of them.
• TIP: Do not spend waste your time writing preambulatory clauses. Those that usually do the preams are those that are not good at writing operative clauses.

Operative Clauses
• Operative clauses serve as the backbone for the paper. Operative clauses give the working paper substance.
• Operatives may use *slightly* stronger language than preams. They are also much longer, and much more specific.
• Operative clauses may have sub-clauses and sub-sub clauses for specificity.
• Working papers may span from having five operative clauses, to 30, depending on how comprehensive and how many people worked on it.
• TIP: Unless operatives begin repeating themselves/overlapping, or the Chair gives a limit on how many operative clauses can be in a working paper, do not hold yourself back on how many operative clauses are in your working paper. Granted, specific working papers are nice, but if each of the operatives in your working paper is appropriate and helps address that topic/issue, there is no reason to not include it.
• The solutions that you bring to the conference will be made operative, not preambulatory clauses.
Solution Making

Including your own country in a solution

- **TIP:** Regardless of the strength or perceived power of your country, it is generally never accepted to have a clause in a working paper specifying your country or any other country to take a specific action.
- For example, if you were representing the United States of America, you cannot include a clause mentioning “The United States of America has agreed to fund X” or “The United States of America will do Y”. Working papers are meant to include everyone equally. On top of that, as a representative of your country, you have no authority to make any statement on what your country will or will not do. Even in the real world, that would be entirely up to the legislative and executive body of your nation.