

Battlefield Earth:

A Guide to Model United Nations

Al-Niwaz Jiwa

What is Model United Nations?

Everybody's heard of the United Nations. The UN, with its headquarters in New York City is the largest organization of its kind in the world. Formed after the conclusion of the Second World War, it gives an avenue for countries to solve mutual problems and resolve international conflict without force or weaponry. The UN itself is a complicated organization with a multifaceted agenda, but nevertheless, it remains a community that embodies unity and symbolizes continual human progress. This of course does not mean that the United Nations is without faults; many aspects of the UN are in desperate need of reform (an entire committee is dedicated to expediting changes in a variety of matters), and there is rarely a day without some notable figure questioning the decisions and continuing legitimacy of the organization. In short, the UN is an important part of the global community and continues to play a major role in an increasingly interconnected planet.

As you have realized (by expressing interest in the club and taking the initiative of picking up the book), the United Nations caters quite well to simulations, aptly termed Model United Nations conferences. By no means are these conventions few and far between: from Harvard, to Stanford, to the Hague, to Hong Kong, intellectual institutions around the world have realized the importance of learning about the views of different countries and using this knowledge to achieve a tangible solution. The MUN experience, however, goes beyond mere comprehension. Not only do you have to "know" your country's views on various issues, but you have to "be" your state; adopting a dynamic way of thinking to ensure your country's, not your own, interests are being served. The beauty of the conference is that this mode of thought is not confined to the sessions taking place each day. Should you choose to fully immerse yourself into the MUN world, you can be assured that the simulation will find its way into your hotel room, onto your breakfast table and anywhere else you choose. Unmoderated caucuses will spring up throughout each day as you endeavor to compromise, and find a solution that can be applied to real life problems. You will find yourself discussing issues that currently are affecting millions worldwide, and striving to find some way to reconcile your own moral viewpoints with the demands of your home government and the earth as a whole.

Model United Nations is not just a club or conference, rather, it is way of thinking. By realizing this at the onset of your conference, not only will you be better able to contribute as new proposals arise during sessions, but you will also attain a greater understanding of the dynamics of world community after each trip. Simply, the more you put into each conference working on strategies and solutions, the more you will get out.

Welcome to the world of MUN.

The Drawing Board: Committees, Countries, Teams and Topics

Before commencing with any preparation, it's important to understand the general structure of the United Nations. The UN Charter splits the organization into six main divisions: the General Assembly, the Economic and Social Council, the Security Council, the International Court of Justice, the Trusteeship Council, and the Secretariat. Most Model United Nations conferences are constrained by size and rarely include all of these bodies. The General Assembly is where most members of a delegation will participate. Under the body of the General Assembly there exists various larger and smaller committees, from Disarmament and International Security (which can reach numbers of 400 at some conferences) to the United Nations Development Program (which is capped at 30 delegates). At some conferences, the opportunity exists to send students to committees within the Economic and Social Council. Much like the General Assembly, this body is also divided into numerous sub-committees. The Security Council is the most powerful wing of the United Nations and is entrusted with keeping world peace. As there can only be a maximum of 15 members (The 5 permanent members – US, Russia, China, Britain, and France and 10 members which “rotate every 2 years), this specific committee is usually where a club's most experienced delegates participate. Given its selectivity, the Security Council is characterized by fast paced debate and furious action. The International Court of Justice is found less frequently than the Security Council at conferences, and involves delegate serving as “judges” to arbitrate a specific dispute.

As each committee has a completely different set of dynamics, some students are better catered to one over another. If you desire a smaller group of people to work with, relish personal contact with the committee as a whole, and enjoy constantly going up to the podium and responding to the various contentions brought forth, you may be better suited for a Specialized Agency. While narrower in topic area, such councils provide a small, workable environment. Conversely, other delegates prefer to work with a larger and more diverse group in major General Assembly committees. While it becomes harder (as a result of larger numbers) to dominate all aspects of discussions, you can still play a major role by forming large coalitions and compromising with other country blocs.

Committee choice is the first significant, individual decision that you will have to make as an MUN delegate. When deciding on a specific council or agency, make sure to keep in mind the topic areas. As will be elaborated on further in this guide, these subjects will form the basis of most, if not all of the discussion during the sessions. It is imperative to pick a committee with a theme that you will find interesting and enjoy researching on. Often students choose topics that correspond with an area in which they already have a degree of knowledge. For example, “Free Trade”, a common topic for the Economic and Financial Committee would be a perfect fit for someone in an Economics or Human Geography course as they would be able to tie the topic in with themes already covered in class. Be wary of picking a committee that has one topic area of great interest to you, and another topic area in which you do not have the slightest interest. As will be discussed later on, chances are high, given various time factors and the depth to which some areas must be discussed, that only one topic may be covered, and this could very well be the one that was ignored while you worked on the other. Some students will pick

topic areas that are of particular relevance to the country the school has been assigned to represent. If the club is Palestine for the conference, the topic of land division in Israel is especially pertinent and would result in a fantastic opportunity for the delegate chosen to represent the country in this particular committee. Again, you should realize that if in a scenario such as this (where the topic results in your country playing a prominent role), you will be called upon on numerous occasions to defend your views and correspondingly, you should be prepared to take on a leadership position. If your desire in the conference is to quietly learn and take notes as opposed to be at the center of the action and controversy, you should realize that this committee might not be the best fit for you.

Now is also the time to figure out whether or not you want to be paired with another student for the conference. Partners, of course, bring with them additional strengths and weaknesses. Most notably, having a counterpart allows you to be “two places at once”, and this, of course, is a significant advantage. While you remain within the committee room, taking notes and asking for yields from other countries (this will be discussed later), your partner can be outside, negotiating in an informal discussion group or writing a resolution. A partner is also useful for discussing ideas and getting new insight into problems that arise during the session, as the saying goes, two heads are better than one. On the other hand, you may be one that finds you work better solo. As with any sort of partnership, the individuals involved with each other during an MUN may argue and disagree on numerous points. This slows down progress, and could eventually lead to major problems if your partner is advocating a different position than yourself. However, if you go with someone who you have historically worked well with, the benefits far outweigh the consequences. Simply, there are numerous advantages to having someone available to advocate your country’s stance to one group while you converse with others and find out in what direction the others seem to be heading.

Often in partnership scenarios, the two delegates split up the research along the topic areas. This is something to be urged against at all costs. To excel in a conference, it is necessary for both students to be incredibly familiar with both potential topics. Inevitably, one of these subjects will emerge as the primary discussion item, and if you or your colleague are not well versed in this specific area, your team’s chances for success will be compromised. To run, you must first learn to walk, and researching your background themes provides the basis for any discussion that may take place during a MUN. Teamwork entails working together, not dividing the material half way and working individually until arriving at the conference destination. Teams are judged by their ability to work cohesively, with each member playing a specific role and being equally involved. If an award is the ultimate goal, be sure that these criteria are met; they are the first way the evaluators distinguish between those unable to cope with the stresses of the committee sessions, and those who should be recognized for exceptional merit.

The Real Deal With Research

Now that you've figured out your committee, your partnership situation and your topic areas, it's time for the most laborious aspect of the MUN experience: researching your country and sifting through the seemingly endless stream of background information. At this point in time, it's important to think critically and ask the following questions:

What is the Problem I'm being presented with?

This should be evident from the background papers sent to you by your committee chair a few months before the conference. These documents will be the basis of your research into the topic areas. Essentially, these articles describe the events that may have precipitated the conflict you will have to deal with. Depending on the conference, the background information will be taken to various levels of detail. Whatever the case, it is important to read everything that is given to you. Often, there will be section specifically outlining the issues that are at the heart of the topic area. Following this, will be a list of bibliographic material and web-sites of particular interest. All of these resources should be used in order to find what the central problems are, and correspondingly, to identify avenues of exacting change. It's good to have material with perspectives different to those being advocated by the committee chair. Creativity and originality in approach to the situation will undoubtedly cause a great deal of interest in your country's positions and views. Think outside the box: find not only the policies that are exacerbating the conflict, but also, what led to these approaches being instituted in the first place. Specifically, discover the relationship between the current situation and past actions. Find the reasons why previous responses have not had the desired effect on the area of concern and observe the nature of the current strife.

What's My Country's Position on the Issue?

Answering this question involves three steps. Firstly, you must research your country in general. Following this, you should find how your country's foreign policy specifically relates to the topic at hand. Finally, you should look at past actions your country has taken, and use this to predict what ways it might respond to deal with the present problem. The first part of this research section is the most time consuming, but is absolutely essential in order to accurately articulate the views and concerns of your nation within committee sessions. The country research should encompass the economic and political systems of the country, the history and culture of the society, the demographics of the society, the geography of the country, the international and regional associations the country belongs to, and the country's current domestic situation. Specifically, you should look for statistics that can be used to provide a general understanding as to how the country works, where the government's power is derived from, and what role the nation plays with its regional and global community. When researching pay particular attention to measures such as GNP, foreign debt, political philosophy, type of government, internal language and religious boundaries, population density, division of the workforce, and various geographic regions. All of these factors

combine to define the unique nature of the country you will representing, and will become particularly useful in the formulation of a foreign policy pertaining to the topic areas.

The assimilation of this research into a specific country position pertaining to the two topics is the ultimate goal of your background information gathering. By first putting yourself in the mindset of your state, you will be better able to comprehend the factors influencing national decisions, and therefore, be more representative of your country when confronted with various scenarios. After identifying the problem (Step #1 above), you must search out existing policies designed to meet the problem in your country, how the problem affects the population of your country and its relative importance to your nation at the current time. There is a legitimate possibility that your state has no official policy towards to areas being discussed (The Sultanate of Oman, for instance, has only four articles of foreign policy in total), and if this is the case, your job becomes more difficult. You must first identify the groups that exert power and control of the running of the country (political parties etc.) and find what their standpoint on related matters might be. In doing this, you must be careful to weigh each viewpoint according to the relative support that it holds; that is, to place the greatest importance on the opinions held by the organizations with the greatest power. For instance, if my topic area related to the legalization of medicinal narcotics, and I was assigned Canada, I would look to the majority party's political platform in order to gain insight as to how the country should be represented. If this avenue yields no success and resources on major interest groups are limited, you should then have to rely on the ideology of the government and the information uncovered in your general survey to hypothesize your country's position.

Another valuable way of generating a country position is to look at the views of other countries that have traditionally sided with your nation. For example, many African nations have similar policies regarding the availability of generic drugs to deal with the HIV crisis. Certain blocs will also be specified in your background papers. Keep these in mind for policy formulation as well as for finding potential allies during the conference.

What additional resources do I need to use?

There is no limit to material that can be used in writing your position paper. Generally though, apart from the information presented in the background papers, there are a number of different sources that you should look into. Obviously, there is general Internet research where you type in various key words and explore to find something that can be incorporated in your write up, but additionally, it's advisable to build at least a somewhat varied information base. Firstly, you should look to embassies in your country's capitol city. Write or phone them, outline your questions and see if they can send you material or briefly answer your query. Often, they will direct you to someone who is willing to spend some time with you, and ensure that you understand how their country works. There are dozens of other organizations (such as the United Nations Information Center, Amnesty International etc.) that release detailed reports outlining various happenings and giving insight as to how certain problems should be dealt with (There will be a list of addresses for some helpful starting points just below this

paragraph). Spend some time at the Local University Political Library. Even though you can't take books out, it's helpful to go and read up interpretations of the problem you're facing from different angles. Talk to your Social Studies, Gov/Pol or Economics teacher; they may have suggestions as to how you should attack the issue. Finally, check with your friends and classmates who have attended MUN conferences in the past. There's a very good chance that at least one of them will have done something similar previously. They should be able to point you into the right direction, and help you start writing your position paper, the next major part of MUN preparation.

Addresses of Helpful Resource Centers

The UN Information Center – Contains General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as free information on many topics. While (given its location in Washington, DC) you will most likely be unable to visit it personally, it is possible for them to suggest books that may be helpful.

UN Information Center
1889 F Street N. W. Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20006
Telephone: (202) 289-8670

UNA-USA – The UNA-USA has a wide variety of information materials including fact sheets on numerous topics. You can contact them and request certain resources or, if at a New York area conference, pick some up for future MUNs.

UNA-USA
485 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 697-3232

Embassies – By talking to your local MP, the address of a specific embassy can be obtained. As a general rule, however, written responses can take a very long time.

The United Nations – If you can't get a certain document from a library, you can contact the UN directly and obtain or purchase them from the Public Inquiries Unit.

Public Inquiries Unit
Department of Public Information
United Nations, NY 10017
Telephone: (212) 963-4475

The Position Paper: Time to Fire on All Cylinders

The position paper is literally your bible throughout the conference. Essentially, the paper forces you to write out your country's viewpoints in paragraph form. It's also the first important mode of evaluation for the committee chair; all papers must be submitted some months in advance to the Conference Secretariat. Naturally, given its significance to the MUN experience, the position paper is something you want to excel at, and to do this, several criteria must be met. At the onset of this discussion on the position paper it is particularly significant to stress that it must be written from your country's perspective. Again, as this document will be your guideline for action throughout the entire conference, it's in your best interests to give an accurate portrayal of your country's stance on the issues at hand. Simply put, the position paper is meant to give delegates an opportunity to organize their research into an organized policy statement.

Before you start writing, it's important to look at the questions that outlined in your background research packet (the documents sent to you by the committee chair). Suggesting a comprehensive course of action that answers these queries is the ultimate goal of your write-up. A good position paper should make clear reference to these guidelines and demonstrate that the students clearly comprehend the creative and compositional depth required for an MUN simulation.

If one were looking for some sort of rubric as to what the ideal position paper should consist of, there would be a number of clearly identifiable elements. The position paper has a definite general structure to it: three sections (totaling one page in length) each of which serves a clear purpose within the general context of the paper. With reference to Model Position paper A (next page), we can analyze these different parts and comment on the relative successes of specific techniques used to elucidate points.

The first section (labeled 'A') serves the purpose of outlining the topic in general and providing insight into the root of the conflict. As the subject of the paper is Free Trade, the write-up begins by first stating the areas of concern, discussing some of the positive and negative aspects of globalization, as well as emphasizing the controversial nature of the topic at hand. Your opening paragraph should, as this paper attests to, be a brief summary of the current perception held towards the status quo. It should state the problem and express why it is significant.

The second section (labeled 'B') is where your background research on your country pays off. Firstly, you should identify and describe your country. Be sure to state how your nation relates to the topic for discussion, specifically citing how your state has been affected (B1). It is imperative to emphasize the extent to which change has taken place. Hold off any normative judgments in this section, the purpose of this paragraph is not to evaluate the institution or development in reference to your country, but rather, to merely discuss how it has altered domestic dynamics.

The third section (labeled 'C') is where you outline your country's policies and what factors contributed to those policies being established in the first place. At this point, you are to address the relative benefits (if any) and detriments of the development, specifically relating to your nation and the actions you have taken to maximize or minimize these effects. You are to explain why your country has acted in a certain fashion historically (C1), and why it will continue to follow this course of action. Outline your state's particular interest in the issue being discussed, and begin to discuss what needs to be changed about the current interpretation of the situation. Cite the areas needing reform (C2) and provide suggestions as to how this revision process should be accomplished. Following this, you may want to focus on one area of particular concern for your country (C3). Depending on your topic area, this could be anything from the affect of a war on a nation's health care infrastructure to how creating new national boundaries may affect resource deposits running along the potential borders. In this particular paper, attention is brought to Regional Trade Alliances (C4) and their associated problems, something that, as been noted, holds special significance to Oman. By approaching a problematic scenario in greater detail, you are demonstrating to the chair and to fellow delegates that you have the capacity to think critically and can identify the issues with which your country has the greatest concern. This being said, choose this area carefully: given the issue's prominence in your position paper (and correspondingly the problem's significance to your country as a whole), you will have to stress its importance during committee session. Be sure to select an area of concern that could potentially form the basis of a resolution, or at least one that can stimulate prolonged debate.

Finally, a conclusion should be written to restate your country's position and sum up what you hope to achieve throughout the duration of the conference (D).

The position paper leaves the committee chair with a first impression of your delegation. Naturally, it's important to make that impression as strong as possible. The staff looks for original and critical thinking, a true understanding of the nature of your nation and both a function and applied knowledge of your topic. Be sure to demonstrate this through presenting a concise yet effective paper. As expressed before, be sure to dedicate equivalent energy to position papers for both topic areas. They are equally important in the eyes of the committee and the directors (the people who will be evaluating your write-ups).

After submitting your position paper to the conference secretariat, there usually is a month long stretch where you play "the waiting game". As you will no doubt be busy with schoolwork, don't worry excessively about preparation. On weekends, however, you may find it helpful to review material and do more researching so as to keep up to date with the latest happenings. Other than that, get ready for Showtime!

The Conference and Committees: Time to Take a Stand

When the conference begins, it's time for all your research to finally pay off. Once the opening ceremonies have concluded (be sure to relax and enjoy the speakers during this section – you'll need to be charged up), it's time for the first session of the MUN. Often, conferences will give you a short period for dinner, but to find a restaurant (or wait in line at one – there will be thousands of delegates hoping to get a bite) and eat comfortably requires more time than one hour will provide. Take a drink and a snack with you, power it down, and go mingle in your assigned room. As the delegates filter in, many will take the opportunity to come up and introduce themselves; they'll tell you their names (and serial numbers if applicable), what they feel the topic of greatest concern is and just about anything else they can do to get you initially on their side. At this point, you have the opportunity to join in and talk to other entering delegates, or sit down and collect your thoughts. Be advised, though it may seem pointless (and while some of your fellow delegates may frighten you with their infinite pool of knowledge), now is a good time to build connections. Find out where everyone stands on the issues at hand, and particularly socialize with those who seem to have similar positions to yourself. It's also good to take the chance to relate countries to faces, so that you'll know exactly who to look for if a question arises. Most important, however, is to scout out a chair in the front of the room, in plain view of the Moderator. The reasons for this are two fold: firstly, this location allows the chair to clearly identify you, and correspondingly call on you throughout session. Secondly, all the "keeners" tend to locate themselves at the front. These are the people you want to associate with. Proximity to them leads to dialogue, and eventual alliance building. This will be incredibly helpful later on as you scramble to get endorsers for your resolution.

Setting the Agenda

Eventually, the Moderator will call the room to order after which he or she will proceed with role call to ensure that everyone is present. So long as a quorum exists (40% of the countries are present), the Moderator will ask for someone to move for the agenda to be set. This is the first major action of the committee. Before any debate on a specific topic can take place, UN procedures dictate that the order in which the topics will be discussed must be established. In most cases, this involves the committee deciding whether or not Topic A or Topic B should be addressed first. This is the time for you to voice your opinion as to which holds the greatest relevance to the committee and the world as a whole. Naturally, you're also going to want to pick the area that you are the most proficient at as well. The Moderator will call for a Speakers list to be set up for countries wishing to express their views. The Speakers list is something you will become familiar with by the end of the conference as it shows the speaking order of the delegations. Raise your placard (You are provided with these before the conference – A placard is a sign with your country's name on it) if you wish to go up and talk. As there will no doubt be a number of them in the air, hold it high and straight so that it's easy for the chairperson to see you and add you to the list. After all names have been added, delegates speak for roughly one minute (the times are set by the chair) where after comments can be made by two other delegations. To comment, you must raise your placard at the

conclusion of the student's speech (as long as he hasn't yielded his time to any source) and motion to comment on the speaker's content. You will then be given 30 seconds to speak. The only restriction is that your speech must directly pertain to the message given by the previous delegate. If at any time you find yourself near the bottom of the speakers list, comments are a great way to let the committee hear your opinions.

After hearing several speakers advocating different sides of the agenda setting, the chair will eventually call for a motion to close debate on setting the topic order. A vote will be taken and within a few minutes you'll find out what the committee will be covering first. Many times, this will be the only topic that will be addressed.

Making Major Motions and Rules of Procedure

Before discussing the process of making speeches and tips for negotiations, it's helpful to have a grasp of the rules you're expected to adhere to while in simulation. There are certain ways of bringing up points, and terms that you'll have to commit to memory. The best way to cover these is simply to list them off. The rules of procedure are arranged in order of precedence (which point is recognized by the chair first).

Point of Personal Privilege: This can be used at anytime and states to the chair that your ability to participate in the discussions is being hindered in some way. This could be as a result of too much noise or talking by fellow delegates, or because you simply can't understand what the speaker is saying (a malfunctioning microphone for instance). Simply raise your placard (even if someone is up at the front speaking) and you will be called upon to state your problem.

Point of Order: This again can be used at any time (but only during a speech when the speaker himself has violated a procedure) and states to the chair that one of the rules governing debate may have been broken.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: This can be used only when the floor is open (when no one is speaking or addressing the chair). Raising this point allows a delegate to ask a question about the MUN directly to the moderator.

Adjournment or Suspension of Debate: This motion occurs at the end of every session and calls for all discussion to be carried over to the next meeting so that the delegates can feed themselves or catch some shuteye. Everything remains exactly as it was before (the Speakers list stays the same). One half of the committee must vote in favor of this motion for it to pass.

Closure of Debate: This calls for an end of all debate on a substantive matter (for example a topic area). It requires the votes of two-thirds of the committee, and if passed, the Speakers list is closed and a vote immediately takes place on the resolutions currently on the floor (with any ones receiving a majority of the votes passing). When this motion is introduced, two speakers are permitted to speak against it.

Postponement of Debate: This (as the title aptly puts), calls for a postponement of any discussion of any resolution or amendment. This would result in the document being taken off the floor, and, as a result, it could no longer be referred to be delegates. This motion requires a two-thirds majority and when it is introduced, one speaker is allowed to speak in favor of it, and another, against it.

Division of The Question: This is arguably the hardest motion for new delegates to comprehend. When a resolution is about to be voted on (after debate has been closed) or an amendment has been proposed, a delegate can motion to divide the question, or split up the resolution (or amendment) up into different sections (i.e. clause by clause) and each of these sections to be voted on individually. This is helpful when one particular part of a resolution is controversial, and the majority approves the rest. If successful, dividing the question allows for the good parts to be kept, and the bad parts to be edited out without completely failing a resolution. You can divide the resolution in any manner you feel is relevant. Two speakers are allowed to speak for and against this motion when it is introduced, and it requires a one half majority to pass.

Introduce Amendment or Resolution: This motion is used to bring a resolution or amendment to the floor so that discussion can begin on it. It requires a one half majority. If it passes, the writers of the amendment or resolution are invited up to read it aloud clause by clause and answer any questions on it.

Resumption of Debate: This motion is used to propose that debate be resumed (surprisingly enough) on a resolution or amendment. This essentially cancels postponement motions. A two-thirds majority is required, and when this motion is made, two speakers can stand up and voice their opinions against it.

Reconsideration: If you voted with the on a motion, you can ask that the chair allow for a second, overruling vote to take place with the hopes that the decision may be reversed. This motion is extremely rare, and requires a two-thirds majority and gives two speakers the opportunity to voice their opinions against it.

Appeal: This motion requires a two-thirds majority and goes right to the Moderator. An appeal is used to question the ruling of a Moderator or Chairperson. He or she then defends the decision and the motion is then put to a vote.

Right of Reply: If at any point in time during the committee session, you are personally insulted, you have the option of going to the front and defending yourself from these erroneous allegations. As a general rule, these are amusing to watch.

There are two specific procedural motions/rules that have not been discussed thus far because of their particular importance and the need the stress them separately: namely, motions for caucus and yields.

Caucus: The Most Intense Part of The Conference

Without a doubt, caucus is where the most meaningful discourse during the committee sessions occurs. There are two types of caucuses: unmoderated and moderated. Both caucuses are established by motions (in terms of precedence, these rank right after adjournment of a meeting). The motion requires the support of one half of the committee, and must, when it is made, have a specific time limit and purpose (for example, to discuss a new resolution or idea that's just been brought up). Moderated caucuses are when delegates have the opportunity to speak for a period of time by raising their placards and being called upon by the Moderator. The Speakers list tends to move very slowly, and moderated caucuses occur often to infuse the committee room with new opinions and arguments. During a moderated caucus, you should try to not only forward your own ideas, but also, critique and evaluate the beliefs of those before you. Clash not only stimulates debate, but also makes you look "on the ball" to the chair. Take good notes while the other delegates speak, as you will never know when the chair will call on you. So long as you keep your placard raised, you can be next or tenth in line. While the moderated caucus provides some semblance of structure for organized discussion, the unmoderated or unmediated caucus is the exact opposite. Once an unmoderated caucus has been declared, the room turns into anarchy for the time period. It is, more or less, a break, where the rules of procedure are abandoned, and the room turns into a huge MUN free for all. During this time, take an opportunity to walk around the room, discuss ideas with fellow delegates or work on a resolution. While it's a break from MUN rules, it's not a break from the MUN. This is time that can be used constructively, and with all the other delegates completely at your disposal, you should take advantage of this opportunity.

Yields

As opposed to simply sitting down at the conclusion of your speech, there exists the option of yielding the remainder of your time to three different sources. Yields can be made to the Chair, to questions and to another country. Yielding to the chair prevents any comments (resulting from comment motions) from being made on your speech. If you have just said something particularly controversial and don't want to give any opposition faction the chance to refute your points, this is the best option. Yielding to questions allows for other delegates to pose inquiries about your contentions or about the topic in general for your remaining time. This is usually the best option so long as you have an opportunity to answer the queries (Do not yield to questions when you have four seconds remaining). Yielding to another country gives a delegation of your choice your remaining time. Often, delegates may yield to allies, who in turn, use the period to support their mutual case. One final point: you may only yield on constructive speeches, that is, speeches for which you have been called from the speakers list. Moderated caucuses, and comments do not offer yield opportunities.

General Speaking Tips

When going up to make a speech, confidence is your biggest asset. If you give the impression that you feel strongly about what you are saying, others will feel the same way too. Be sure that you look presentable (Blazer done up, shirt tucked in): first impressions are very important. The first speech you make (After being called up from the speakers list – make sure that you raise your placard quickly once the topic has been set so that you will be given a reasonably high spot) should outline your country's foreign policy and how it relates to the issue at hand. As this is a descriptive statement, you can prepare this well in advance. Be sure to mention any current or historical action that your country has taken in reference to the topic. From then on, your speeches should be predominantly analysis of committee happenings and evaluations of the suggestions put forth by other delegations. It's always impressive when you can directly quote statements made by other nations and use them to emphasize a point. Other than that, make sure to relax, keep yourself involved in discussions happening in and out of the session room, and be sure to stick to your country's policy.

About a session and a half into the conference, people will begin to talk about Resolution writing. The ultimate goal of an MUN is to create a resolution that passes with the unanimous support of the committee. The working paper and the resolution will be the next major step in the Model United Nations process.

Resolutions and Working Papers: You've Got The Power

Writing a comprehensive resolution as a solution to the problem presented in your topic area is the goal of your committee. By passing this document and ending all substantive debate, you and your colleagues are not only reaffirming your solidarity and commitment to honoring this mutual pact, but also, are demonstrating that you have reached an equitable and viable solution. The resolution reflects everything that has thus far been discussed: compromise, your national policy, and new developments occurring during session. It is not meant to be something prepared beforehand, nor a word-for-word account of your position paper, rather, it is meant to be a result of debate and negotiation with your allies, fellow bloc nations, and other countries sharing your viewpoints. This being said, for you to support a resolution, you must be sure that it falls within your national policy. You cannot simply sign on to every piece of paper that passes your way. Often, to ensure that one's interests are being met, delegates will often start their own resolutions. So long as you have the input of other countries (that will support the document during committee session), this is a fantastic idea. Be sure, however, that there aren't already ten resolutions already on the floor; joining a group already espousing ideas you agree with would be far more productive than simply starting from scratch and repeating many of their ideas.

Working Papers

Before the resolution stage, comes the Working paper stage. A working paper can be described as a "Baby Resolution", as it lacks great deals of complexity and detail that are often found of the latter paper. Essentially, the working paper serves the function of codifying various ideas major ideas buzzing around the room, and organizing them into a clear statement. While they do not have the importance of a resolution, working papers are still an integral of the MUN experience. By identifying yourself with a particular viewpoint or stance, you can attract other delegations to your side. Other groups are able to have easy access your bloc stance (working papers are passed out on sheets of paper), and as a result of this, they will know exactly how much they can compromise, and can find their relative compatibility with your position. By having a hard copy of your stance throughout the session, they can make reference to their concerns during moderated caucuses or speaking times. By compromising and receiving constructive feedback, you can add or change clauses so that your resolution (the next logical step) will be met with greater support and popularity.

Writing a Working Paper is fairly simple. The rules of format are not as strict or comprehensive as those regulating resolutions. While working papers can be written in resolution format (see section later in write-up), there are numerous other fashions in which they can be submitted, depending on the conference. For the most part, however, it's the content, not the organization, that's the biggest concern. Finally, you should know that Working Papers are informal documents: they need not be introduced in the same fashion as a resolution. They are simply put up and distributed. This being said, get started on one early in the conference; you'll impresses fellow nations and the chair.

The Resolution In Brief

Once some working papers have been put on the floor and several ideas have been debated and discussed both in unmoderated and moderated caucuses, the time has come to get together with other delegates and begin writing a resolution. As noted before, a resolution is a formal and comprehensive course of action to react to the problems presented by the topic area. Once it has been written, a resolution must be submitted to the committee chair who then authorizes the copying (so that all delegates receive your work) and distribution of the paper. Before submission, you must ascertain the signatures of several delegates (this varies between conferences – some require as few as 5, others as many as 25), who wish for the resolution to be introduced to the committee as a whole. These delegates prove to the committee chair that there is enough support for the document to justify bringing before all the delegates during the session. Often, these signatories will form the backbone of the resolution's support group but this is not always the case. A student who signs a resolution may simply be voicing his or her support for the resolution being debated on the floor and the ideas contained within it, being evaluated and improved upon.

Writing the Resolution

At the very top of any resolution should be the committee you are in. There should be no other titles or statements, just the committee name (and at some conferences, the names of the resolution writers right below that).

The first part of the resolution are the perambulatory clauses: adverbial and adjectival phrases used to describe the committee's intent, motivation, and frame of mind when writing the resolution. As shown by sentence "A" on sample Resolution A, perambulatory are meant to be concise and effective. All perambulatory clauses begin with capital letters and have the first word (the adverbial or adjectival modifier) underlined (A1). When writing a resolution for the first time, you may find yourself at a loss for "first words" or opening for one of the perambulatory clauses. To help you out, listed below is a list that includes some, but definitely not all, of the opening options. Be sure to vary these throughout your write-up.

After the perambulatory clauses, come the operative clauses (B on Sample Resolution A): the main body of the resolution. The operative clauses contain the "action" of the resolution: literally, what is being proposed or suggested. As a general rule, the clauses are group according to their subject matter. In terms of format, each operative clause starts with a capitalized present tense verb in the third person singular to, as with the perambulatory clauses, to demonstrate the intentions and goals of the committee. Remember this is where your content must go! Be sure to put as much material as possible in your resolution: the more comprehensive and all encompassing it is, the less likely it will need to be amended or changed. Furthermore, by submitting a large resolution you are allowing for the more controversial factors to be discussed and edited out (by division of the question) without having a major impact on the resolution as a whole; taking one clause away out of 17 is less than one out of 6. Be willing to

compromise: the most successful resolutions are those that result from the combination of many different ones. Also, try to work in smaller rather than larger groups. We've all heard the saying too many cooks spoil the broth, and MUN is not different. If you are with a group of thirty people, nothing will be accomplished. Everyone will try to talk at the same time, and it will be impossible to control order. An hour after beginning, you'll find yourself with nothing accomplished and a massive headache. Work with a few people, then go individually to other countries and bounce ideas off them. This way, you can still work constructively and get input from other blocs.

Be sure to make reference to the Model Resolution if there is an area that you don't fully understand. The Model paper is based on the prototype used by many different US College hosted MUNs.

Below are lists of perambulatory clauses, and operative openings that are commonly used. These are just a few samples that may come in handy during session:

<u>Perambulatory Clause "First Words"</u>

Affirming	Declaring	Further	Keeping in
Alarmed by	Deeply	deploring	Mind
Approving	concerned	Further	Noting further
Aware of	Deeply	Recalling	Noting with
Believing	convinced	Gravely	regret
Bearing in Mind	Desiring	concerned	Noting with
Confident	Emphasizing	Having	Zest
Considering also	Expecting	Considered	Reaffirming
Contemplating	Fulfilling	Heaving	Recognizing
Convinced	Fully Aware	examined	Welcoming

ive Clause "F

Accepts	Considers	Proclaims	Proclaims
Affirms	Decides	Further Reminds	Reaffirms
Appeals	Declares	Further	Recommends
Approves	accordingly	Recommends	Reminds
Authorizes	Demands	Further	Renews
Calls	Deplores	Resolves	Requests
Calls upon	Designates	Further	Solemnly
Commends	Further	Requests	Strongly
Condemns	Endorses	Has resolved	
Congratulates	Further Invites	Notes	
Confirms	Further	Offers	

Model Resolution A

* The Topic Area of This Resolution is Free Trade
The Economic and Financial Committee:

Reaffirming the importance of such organizations as the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to ensure Global growth and prosperity to both developed and developing nations (A),

Recognizing (A1) that certain Developing Nations are faced with the adverse effects of free trade,

Understanding that feasible measures ensuring the benefits of trade liberalization will enable the economies of developing nations to prosper,

Fully believing that a Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) provide stable networks of nations with common economic goals which serve as safety nets to any potential economic crisis,

Fully aware that a nation's sovereignty must not be infringed upon through any measure taken to increase global prosperity in the International community,

Bearing in mind that a definite goal of the ECOFIN Committee is to successfully integrate developing nations into a more equitable global economy,

Noting with zest that strong infrastructures are crucial to sustainable development.

1. Strongly suggests (B) reform in the IMF's policies pertaining to:
 - a. strengthening the security with the IMF to prevent corruption
 - b. development of nations' economic profiles before the IMF enters the nation;
 - c. increasing funding to underdeveloped nations;
 - d. using tranches more than giving extensive loans or credits to nations;
2. Urges UNCTAD and the CSD to take more direct action in helping to construct infrastructures that will aid underdeveloped nations in getting on the road to economic stability and entrance into the international economy in such areas as:
 - a. banking
 - b. exchange rates
 - c. tariffs (protective or general)
 - d. internal and external fiscal and monetary policy
3. Calls upon the UNDP to continue to support development programs with the primary objective of building basic societal infrastructure:
 - a. This shall be accomplished by expanding current programs based on political and legal reconstruction in a larger global scale.

- b. Such aid by the United Nations Development Program will be dispensed at the discretion of concerned nations.

4. Calls for the transfer of relevant science and technology information between existing regional agreements and between individual nations in the effort to build infrastructure;

- a. Regional trade agreements such as the Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) which have lowered their tariffs by 85% on exchanges of technologies and other information are representative of the goals of the WTO/TRIPS rules and guidelines;

5. Further implores that developing nations follow a multi-step plan to assist their transition into the global economy

- a. Increase the asset allocation to those economic sectors which they are most disposed to promoting i.e. those sectors which hold the greatest potential for specialization in order to gain a comparative advantage on the world stage through the concentration of foreign direct investment (FDI), funding from the UNDP, WB, and IMF upon request from that nation and review by the aforementioned organizations
- b. Expand imports of goods into those nations only to the extent that it initiates enough competition for that native, domestic economic sector to see the need to continue the pursuit of improvement in its respective sector.
- c. Satisfy domestic markets i.e. they can successfully compete through domestic competition, and a review will take place to decide whether or not the industries have grown while similar products compete on the regional and international scale with review conducted by UNCTAD, ensuring this will be done;
- d. Begin a large scale expansion of exports to raise GDP (through net exports), as well as the stabilization of the value of the domestic currency;

6. Recognizes that there are alternatives to protective tariffs and pushes for the creation of many permanent joint-committees by the respective national governments and United Nations agencies for the purposes of:

- a. Encouraging foreign investment into nations emerging economically;
- b. Preparing industries for competitive imports by granting general and targeted subsidies upon review of that specific domestic economic sector
 - i. Such subsidies shall be administered and evaluated by the national governments in tandem with advisors from UNCTAD.
- c. Reviewing whether a firm will experience competitive, profitable advantage under free trade so that firms will not depend upon government protection of imports;
- d. Stimulating market innovations by assisting market research and locating strategic partners for competition.

7. Realizes the necessity of regional trade agreements as interlocutory arrangements (i.e. between the status quo and the free open market) for developing nations to reduce or drop tariffs while expanding their exports.

8. Acknowledges many of the benefits and associated detriments of amalgamating and expanding RTAs, hence, calls for a committee to be struck with the purpose of evaluating the viability and equity of growing RTAs.

- i. This board would also be responsible for advising member nations as to the relative sustainability of new RTAs.
- ii. This committee would also be responsible for giving guidance (structure, format etc.) to prospective or new RTAs, and aiding in various other matters at the discretion of the RTAs member states.

9. Strongly deplores the use of dumping in developing nations and encourages anti-dumping agreements to be implemented between developed and developing nations.

10. Encourages the World Trade Organization to expand its mandate and support a commission for the purposes of arbitrating various grievances and disputes between nations regarding dumping legislation and issues deriving there from.

11. Requests that the World Trade Organization annually evaluate the continuing liberalization of the world markets, recognize the subsequent consequences, and set pragmatic goals based on continual observation to avoid a quixotic globalization agenda.

12. Affirms the need for a degree of transparency within countries seeking economic restructuring by organizations of the international community while recognizing the desire to protect sovereignty, hence proposes that:

- a. Those countries wishing for assistance from the WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP etc. accept a commission with the purposes of charting economic progress and identifying notable problems so that the concerns of LDCs can be better articulated.
- b. This commission will consist of independent observers, as well as WTO and domestic authorities to allow the most objective assessment to be formulated.

The Grand Finale

As seen with the sample resolution on the previous page, the final goal or objective of Model United Nations is not complexity or sophistication; rather, it is to provide a sense of direction for action to be taken. The solution should be straightforward yet comprehensive, taking the best of all possible solutions and removing the infeasible and excessively controversial aspects. MUN is all about compromise and creative decision-making. If you ever reach an impasse, remember one easy to follow rule: there is no problem that cannot be negotiated out of. Be sure to stick to your national policy throughout the conference: this is vital to the simulation. While at times this can be challenging, the experience will ultimately be more rewarding if you arrive at a resolution that falls within your country's foreign policy.

Don't feel pressured to sign a resolution or advocate a position that you don't believe is equitable for the world as a whole. Often, delegates have trouble reconciling their nationalistic interests with those of the greater global community. Be sure not to fall into this trap. The United Nations has a mission to make the best decisions for all of humankind, not just for a few countries. Try and speak as much as you can; you have a responsibility to defend your nation's views and ensure that your voice is not disregarded or forgotten.

When the dust clears and a resolution has passed, when the Moderator's gavel hits the podium for the final time, you should leave with a sense of accomplishment. By no means is an MUN conference easy: it requires great deals of time and effort. At the closing ceremonies (held after the last morning session), some delegates will be singled out for outstanding contributions during committee sessions. If you have subscribed to what has been discussed in this manual, and have accurately represented your state's interests then one of these awards may be in the cards. If not, think of the conference as a learning experience. Next time you'll be more confident and ready to deal with the challenges that confront you. At the end of the conference, be proud of yourself. Not only will you have learned the procedures for formal debate and discourse, but you will also have realized the difficult nature of consensus among a diverse international community. When you arrive home, reflect on what happened during the sessions, and start working on all the schoolwork you missed. Good Luck and bon voyage on your MUN experience.

