

XOXO Gossip Girl, 2025

Thomas Jefferson Model United Nations Conference

TechMUN XXXII



High School Crisis Committee

Committee Director: Jia Mody

Co-Chairs: Claire Guo & Jahn timer Guduru

Thomas Jefferson High School for Science and Technology

April 11th-12th, 2025

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to TechMUN XXXII, and the XOXO Gossip Girl committee! Our names are Jia Mody, Claire Guo, and Jahnavi Guduru and we look forward to being your director/chairs and hearing your ideas on the given topics. This committee takes place on April 11, 2025. Each of the delegates will be representing a character, and we truly hope we will be able to see those characters reflected through your arcs. This committee will focus on two main topics: “Topic 1: Searching for the New Queen Bees: The Shift in Social Hierarchy After the Departure of Blair Waldorf” and “Topic 2: Saving Serena’s Wedding: Crisis Management After Gossip Girl’s Scandal.” The first topic addresses finding the next Queen Bees, or trendsetters of the school, and the second addresses saving Serena Van der Woodsen’s wedding after a viral tip on Gossip Girl.

This weekend, we are looking for delegates who are diplomatic leaders who have creative ideas and are strong speakers. A good delegate should possess a friendly and diplomatic personality, while also demonstrating a flair for creativity. While the committee is a place of debate, it is of utmost importance to be respectful of other delegates. We hope that each and every one of you step out of your comfort zone this weekend, whether it be through giving speeches without notepads or branching out more in unmods. Most importantly, don’t give up at any point in committee—one mess-up is not the end and we as your chairs understand that committee can be nerve-racking. No matter whether this is your first conference or last, we truly hope that this TechMUN will be one for every one of you to remember. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to email xoxogossipgirltechmun2025@gmail.com.

Jia Mody, Claire Guo, & Jahnavi Guduru

Director and Co-Chairs, XOXO Gossip Girl

Introduction to the Upper East Side

During the golden age of Manhattan's elite, New York City became the backdrop for a relentless power struggle among its most influential families, socialites, and power players. Amidst the glamour of charity galas, high-fashion events, and lavish penthouses, a darker game of manipulation and betrayal unfolded.

Before the infamous Gossip Girl site emerged as the ultimate judge of high society's secrets, the city was already a battlefield of influence and ambition. The arrival of Gossip Girl only intensified the ruthless competition for dominance, with their posts wielding the power to make or break reputations in an instant. In this volatile world, alliances are as fleeting as trends, and enemies can be made with a single, scandalous post.

As the committee begins, the year is 2010. The current East Siders are graduating high school and moving forward with their lives. With Gossip Girl's ever-watchful eyes turning the Upper East Side into her playground, the balance of power is more fragile than ever. Your challenge is to navigate this unforgiving landscape of wealth, prestige, and betrayal.

It is crucial to understand the foundations of New York's elite and how their influence operates. From family legacies to powerful corporations, every delegate in this committee holds a piece of the puzzle. As you maneuver through scandals, alliances, and shifting loyalties, the decisions you make will shape the fate of Manhattan's social and political order.

This committee begins in 2010, just as the drama is about to unfold. The timeline will be flexible and driven by your decisions, but be warned: Gossip Girl is always watching. How will you rise to power when your every move is under scrutiny?

You know you love me. XOXO, Gossip Girl.

Topic 1: Searching for the New Queen Bees: The Shift in Social Hierarchy After the Departure of Blair Waldorf

Background:

In the world of Manhattan's Upper East Side, social power is everything, and at the pinnacle of this hierarchy stands the Queen Bee of Constance. More than just the most popular girl at Constance Billard, the Queen Bee wields influence that extends far beyond the school's gates—into high-society galas, fashion events, the carefully curated reputations of Manhattan's elite, and even connections to international names. To hold this title is to control the social order, dictating who rises, who falls, and who remains invisible.

For years, Blair Waldorf reigned supreme, but with her graduation, Blair left a power vacuum no one has managed to fill. Now, former followers, ambitious newcomers, and even old rivals are vying for the coveted position. The battle for dominance is ruthless, and without a clear leader, the hierarchy is in chaos. In a world where reputation is everything and Gossip Girl's all-seeing eye never sleeps, the quest to become the next Queen Bee has never been more cutthroat.

Current Situation:

Blair, the reigning Queen Bee, maintained an iron grip on the social order with her carefully calculated schemes and alliances. But with her graduation, the once-stable power structure has unraveled, leaving a vacuum that no one has been able to fill—until now.

Jenny Humphrey, the initial successor to Blair's title, has further fragmented the social order with her brief and ultimately disastrous reign. After her rejection of the Queen Bee title and subsequent departure from Constance, Jenny left no clear heir behind. Those who once followed her—Penelope Shafai, Hazel Williams, Isabel Coates, and Nelly Yuki—now find themselves

fractured, some trying to maintain their place in the social elite, while others seek new alliances or power plays to secure their futures. The loyalty of these former minions is now a commodity to be traded, and old friendships have become bargaining chips in a game of survival.

Meanwhile, new contenders are emerging, each with their eyes set on the throne. The underclassmen, once relegated to the sidelines of Constance's social ladder, have begun to rise. Girls once seen as a mere accessory to Blair's entourage are now using their newfound influence while others seek to leverage their personal connections to gain a foothold in the power struggle. The growing instability has opened the door for individuals with different skills—like fashion savvy, academic brilliance, or even insider knowledge of the elite's vulnerabilities—to rise up and stake a claim for the top.

Externally, the pressures of college admissions and fashion internships are further complicating the situation. Blair's absence leaves a gaping hole not only in social status but also in the prestigious internships, exclusive parties, and coveted spots at Ivy League universities that she once controlled. Her departure leaves many of her former allies scrambling to secure these opportunities, and they fear that falling out of the spotlight could mean losing their connections to future success. With Gossip Girl always lurking, one bad post could expose their struggles and destroy their futures.

Gossip Girl remains the ever-present specter in the background, watching and waiting for any misstep to exploit. With every leaked secret, backstabbing, or kiss-and-tell moment, the anonymous blogger sows discord, threatening to tear apart the delicate fabric of social alliances. Each post is a calculated strike, a reminder that in this game, no one is safe. The stakes have never been higher—one misstep and a once-untouchable socialite can fall from grace faster than ever before.

In this environment, the race to become the next Queen Bee is not about who is most popular, but who can outmaneuver the others, stay a step ahead of Gossip Girl's constant surveillance, and establish alliances strong enough to weather the storm of public scrutiny. The new Queen Bee will need more than just charm or looks; she will need a sharp mind, the loyalty of a devoted following, and the ability to adapt to the rapidly shifting landscape of power. Only one person can claim the title, but the path to the top will be fraught with betrayal, manipulation, and the constant threat of exposure. The future of Constance's social order hinges on who can rise to power, reclaim the throne, and restore the delicate balance of influence before it's lost forever. Who will you choose to be the next Queen Bee, and how far will they go to secure their reign?

Possible Solutions:

One possible approach to restoring the social order at Constance could be to appoint a new leader who can unite Blair's former allies, solidifying control over the traditional cliques that once defined the school's social structure. This would bring stability by reestablishing the familiar hierarchy, with a strong figurehead at the top, but it would maintain the same chaos previously held at Constance. A more unconventional strategy could involve a fresh face rising to power by forming new alliances with outcasts and underclassmen, offering a more inclusive and modern vision for the social landscape, however this opens space for anyone and everyone to join the classes of the elite. Another option could be leveraging the power of Gossip Girl to manipulate the narrative, either by gaining control of the posts to elevate the chosen leader or by discrediting rivals to undermine their influence, thus securing dominance in the ever-changing social dynamics. Regardless of how you approach this issue, it is of utmost importance to keep your priority in mind: reestablishing social order to Constance.

Questions to Consider:

1. What kind of leader does Constance Billard and St. Jude's need to restore stability to the social hierarchy? Is it a return to the old guard or someone with a completely new vision for the future?
2. Should the next Queen Bee embrace alliances with the underclassmen, or focus on consolidating power with Blair's former followers? How important is loyalty versus innovation in this battle for control?
3. How can the power of Gossip Girl be used strategically? Should candidates seek to manipulate or silence Gossip Girl, or is it wiser to find a way to co-opt her influence for their own benefit?

Helpful Links:

- https://gossipgirl.fandom.com/wiki/Gossip_Girl_Wiki
- <https://www.netflix.com/title/70143811>

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Topic 2: Saving Serena's Wedding: Crisis Management After Gossip Girl's Scandal

Background:

Serena van der Woodsen's wedding with Dan Humphrey was set to be the event of the year. From the custom Vera Wang gown to the A-list guest list featuring international idols, every detail was meticulously planned to ensure the wedding of the decade. However, in true Upper East Side fashion, disaster struck at the eleventh hour.

Gossip Girl, ever the harbinger of chaos, dropped a bombshell just days before the wedding, sending shockwaves through New York's elite circles. A leaked photo of Serena and Nate Archibald walking on a secluded beach has surfaced, igniting a wildfire of speculation and controversy. With tabloids in a frenzy and socialites abuzz with gossip, Serena's wedding is teetering on the brink of collapse. If this situation is not managed swiftly and strategically, it could become the most catastrophic high-society disaster in recent memory.

Current Situation:

The fallout from the Gossip Girl scandal is escalating by the hour. Social media is ablaze with speculation, and rumors are spiraling out of control. What was once a quiet pre-wedding celebration has now transformed into a public spectacle. High-profile guests including Raina Thorpe's family are reconsidering their attendance, fearing association with a public relations nightmare. Even Serena's fiancé, Dan Humphrey has gone radio silent, leading some to wonder if he is second-guessing his vows. Vendors are getting nervous, and sponsors who had planned to use the wedding as a branding opportunity are pulling out. As these critical elements of the wedding plans begin to unravel, the uncertainty surrounding the event grows, leaving the Van der Woodsen family scrambling to restore order.

The scandal has also reignited old tensions between some of the most powerful families in Manhattan. Lily van der Woodsen and Rufus Humphrey, already dealing with the pressures of blending their families, are now clashing over how to handle the situation, with Rufus worried about how this will affect their reputation and Dan's already tenuous relationship with the elite and Lily worried about her own daughter's well-being. Meanwhile, the Archibalds, still recovering from their past financial scandals, are eager to distance themselves from any more controversy, making Nate's involvement even more precarious. Blair Waldorf, Serena's closest confidante, is doing damage control in her own way, but even she is feeling the strain as her own relationship with Chuck Bass is dragged into the media circus. As she navigates the delicate dance of keeping Serena's social standing intact, Blair's own relationship with Chuck Bass is also coming under media scrutiny. The scandal has brought Chuck into the spotlight in ways neither of them had anticipated, straining their relationship even further. Blair's internal conflict between protecting Serena and maintaining her own social standing makes her role in this crisis all the more complicated.

Additionally, whispers among New York's elite suggest that rivals may be fueling the fire, hoping to knock Serena off her social pedestal. Some see this scandal as an opportunity to dethrone her and reclaim the coveted position of the city's ultimate socialite. The presence of Gossip Girl, ever watchful and ready to exploit any weakness, looms large. With every misstep, another damaging revelation could surface, keeping the pressure high on the Van der Woodsen family to keep the wedding—and Serena's reputation—intact.

The stakes are higher than ever before. The Van der Woodsen family and their closest allies must act quickly to contain the scandal, shift public perception, and ensure that the wedding goes forward as planned. This will require more than just a few apologies and strategic

meetings—it will demand careful, calculated media manipulation, crisis management, and possibly uncovering who was behind this exposé in the first place. The future of Serena's wedding—and her position in New York's social hierarchy—depends on how well they can manage this crisis. The wedding may be on the brink of disaster, but with the right moves, it's not too late to save it.

Possible Solutions:

Managing this crisis requires controlling the narrative, reassuring key stakeholders, and leveraging social influence. It is crucial to determine whether Serena and Nate are actually involved in an ongoing relationship or if the photo was taken out of context. Confronting both Serena and Nate in a timely manner can help clarify the situation and guide the crisis response. A well-crafted public statement, whether through an exclusive interview or a carefully planned social media post, could redirect the conversation in Serena's favor. High-profile allies and influencers should be mobilized to drown out the negative press. Investigating the source of the leak may provide an opportunity to discredit the scandal or turn the tables on the culprit. To prevent further fallout, personal outreach to guests and sponsors can reaffirm the wedding's prestige and exclusivity. If Serena's fiancé is wavering, a private discussion or grand romantic gesture may be necessary to restore confidence in their relationship. Lastly, embracing the spectacle by transforming the scandal into a redemption arc—whether through a dramatic display of unity or an unexpected twist at the wedding—could shift the narrative from disaster to triumph.

Questions to Consider:

- What is the best strategy to control the narrative and minimize damage to Serena's reputation?

- How can the identity of the tipster be uncovered, and how should they be dealt with?
- What steps can be taken to ensure that high-profile guests and sponsors still support the wedding?
- How can social media be leveraged to shift public perception in Serena's favor?
- What contingency plans should be in place in case another scandalous revelation drops?

Helpful Links:

- [https://gossipgirl.fandom.com/wiki/Gossip_Girl_\(TV_Series\)](https://gossipgirl.fandom.com/wiki/Gossip_Girl_(TV_Series))
- <https://www.netflix.com/title/70143811>



XOXO: Gossip Girl Dossier

Blair Waldorf

Blair Waldorf is the daughter of Harold Waldorf, a rich lawyer and Eleanor Waldorf, a wealthy heiress and successful fashion designer. Mastermind of the Upper East Side's social hierarchy, Blair is known for her control over the social atmosphere, deciding who is an outcast and who isn't. After her on and off relationship with Nate Archibald came to an end, she has been after Chuck Bass, who she can't seem to win over. She also briefly dated Dan Humphrey. Being at the top of the Upper East Side social circle, she is a frequent topic in the Gossip Girl blogs.

Serena Van der Woodsen

The golden girl of the Upper East Side. Known for her beauty, charm, and tumultuous past. She is the daughter of Lily and William Van der Woodson. While Blair and Serena sometimes plot against each other to climb to the top of the social ladder, they support each other when an outsider gets involved. Serena works in various fields, previously being a columnist, model, and personal assistant. She has an on and off relationship with Dan Humphrey and has previously dated Aaron Rose, Tripp van der Bilt and Nate Archibald. Serena is caring for her friends, family, and partners but has a tendency to get involved in trouble, leading her to be a constant topic in the Gossip Girl blogs.

Chuck Bass

Son of multimillionaire hotel owner Bart Bass. Chuck owns his own hotel under his dad's franchise, called the Empire Hotel. He is known for his manipulative and rude demeanor. He is the best friend of Nate Archibald and has feelings for Blair Waldorf. He's also the stepbrother with Serena Van der Woodsen, whom he has a close relationship with. He also has a loving relationship with his stepmother, Lily Van der Woodsen. Chuck is often a topic of the Gossip Girl blog due to scheming nature and relationships with many other important figures.

Nate Archibald

Best friends with Chuck Bass. Nate is the cousin and rival of Tripp van der Bilt. Known for his "boy next door" persona, he has dated Serena Van der Woodson and Blair Waldorf, sometimes at the same time. He had an affair with Catherine Beaton and has also been linked to Vanessa Abrams, Raina Thorpe, Lola Rhodes, and Jenny Humphrey. He hopes to differentiate himself from his family and their business. Being part of an influential family, he is a frequent topic on Gossip Girl.

Dan Humphrey

Dan Humphrey, aka “lonely boy” is an outcast, attending St. Jude’s on a partial scholarship. He is the son of Rufus Humphrey and the older brother of Jenny Humphrey. He’s in an on and off relationship with Serena Van der Woodsen, previously dated Georgina Sparks and Blair Waldorf, and has developed a friendship with Nate Archibald. He aspires to go to an Ivy League and become an author. Although he tries to stay away from the drama, he frequents the Gossip Girl blog due to his ties in the Upper East Side after dating Serena van der Woodsen.

Eric Van der Woodsen

The brother of Serena Van der Woodsen. Upper East Siders often come to Eric for advice due to his calm demeanor. He tends to stay out of the drama, but isn’t on good terms with Georgina Sparks after she outed him as gay to his family. He is closest to his sister and Jenny Humphrey, Dan’s little sister.

Georgina Sparks

Georgina is Serena’s frenemy from her party days. Known for her scheming personality, she used to plot to take down the Upper East Siders, but eventually made amends with the group. She previously dated Dan Humphrey. She is often mentioned in Gossip Girl due to her multiple schemes to take down Serena and her group.

Lily Van der Woodsen

Lily van der Woodsen is the stepmom to Chuck Bass, as well as the mother of Eric and Serena Van der Woodsen. She was married to Bart Bass and has an on and off relationship with Rufus Humphrey. She is the daughter of CeCe Rhodes and the aunt of Lola Rhodes. She has a rocky relationship with Serena and Eric due to her expectations for the two. She is known for her high standing in society, yet she has a rebellious past only few know of. She appears on Gossip Girl sometimes when in relation to Serena.

Rufus Humphrey

Rufus Humphrey is the father of both Jenny Humphrey and Dan Humphrey, as well as the on and off boyfriend of Lily Van der Woodsen. He is a former rockstar and continues to pursue the career even after his band’s success comes to an end. He has a strong relationship with his children. He is not as wealthy as the other Upper East siders, but he is known for his kind hearted personality. He rarely appears on Gossip Girl unless it regards his children.

Catherine Beaton

Catherine Beaton is a wealthy, yet scandalous socialite. Although in her 40s, she has an affair with Nate Archibald, as well as her stepson later on. She knows where Nate’s father is hiding, which is valuable for anyone to know. She seldom appears on Gossip Girl unless related to Nate.

CeCe Rhodes

CeCe Rhodes is the mother of Lily Van der Woodsen. She is strong willed and willing to manipulate, which is obvious through her interference in Serena and Dan's relationship. She is the chairman of the debutante ball, which debuts Upper East side women each year. She is rarely ever in Gossip Girl.

Nelly Yuki

Nelly Yuki is one of Blair's minions. She is at the top of her class, but bottom of the social ladder. She is often the victim of Blair's jealousy and wrath. She aspires to go to Yale just like Blair, putting the two in a big rivalry. Nelly seldom appears on Gossip Girl unless related to her ex-boyfriend or Blair.

Penelope Shafai

One of Blair's uber wealthy and popular minions. She dethroned Blair temporarily as St. Jude's Queen Bee at one point. She controls her own sector of Blair's minions, specifically Jenny, who she gets to do all her scheming and plotting. Penelope is best known for being Blair's top minion, as well as being particularly good at gathering secret information about the Upper East siders.

Ivy Dickens

An outsider who slipped into the Upper East Side masquerading as Charlie Rhodes, Ivy is a master of reinvention. Originally a struggling actress from Florida, she was thrust into Manhattan's elite through deception. Though she lacks the pedigree of those around her, Ivy's survival instincts and adaptability make her a formidable player in high society. Underestimated by the elite, Ivy proves time and again that she's willing to do whatever it takes to secure her place among them.

Lola Rhodes

Born Charlotte Rhodes but raised outside the gilded world of the Upper East Side, Lola is the only legitimate Rhodes heiress—though she spent much of her life unaware of it. Growing up in the theater scene with her mother, Carol, she learned independence and resilience, values that starkly contrast with the privilege of her estranged family. She currently attends Julliard in hopes of being an actress.

Bart Bass

A self-made billionaire and the head of Bass Industries, Bart Bass built his empire through calculated risks and a relentless pursuit of power. Emotion is a weakness in his world, a belief that strains his relationship with his son, Chuck, whom he molds into his own image. His

apparent death only reinforced his reputation for deception. His relationship with Lily is rocky due to trust issues. With deep ties to corrupt officials, private investigators, and high-stakes investors, Bart wields immense influence, but his inability to trust may be his greatest downfall.

Dorota Kishlovsky

More than just Blair Waldorf's maid, Dorota is her steadfast protector and adviser. Fiercely loyal, she navigates Blair's schemes with a mix of maternal care and quiet efficiency, often cleaning up the chaos left in her wake. Though underestimated by the Upper East Side elite, Dorota's keen observations and deep understanding of the social battlefield make her an invaluable asset. She is currently married to Vanya, the Van der Woodsen doorman. With roots in Polish aristocracy and a surprising network of connections, she is far more than she appears—always watching, always ready.

Vanya

A doorman at the Van der Woodsen residence, Vanya is a quiet observer of the Upper East Side's endless drama. Originally from Belarus, he is hardworking, loyal, and deeply devoted to Dorota, whom he marries. While often in the background, Vanya's access to the comings and goings of Manhattan's elite gives him a unique perspective, making him a silent witness to secrets others work hard to conceal. Though he prefers to stay out of the chaos, his unwavering support for Dorota means he is never far from the Waldorf orbit.

Scott Rosson

The secret son of Rufus Humphrey and Lily van der Woodsen, Scott Rosson grew up in Boston unaware of his true parentage. Driven by a need to connect with his biological family, he carefully inserts himself into their lives under false pretenses, initially hiding his identity. Intelligent and determined, Scott struggles with feelings of abandonment and belonging, torn between the life he was given and the one he believes he should have had. Though his time on the Upper East Side is brief, his existence shakes the foundations of the Van der Woodsen-Humphrey family, forcing them to confront the past they tried to forget.

William "Tripp" van der Bilt III

Tripp van der Bilt is the golden boy of his influential family, carefully groomed for success. He is the older, more adored cousin of Nate Archibald. His affair with Serena Van der Woodsen harmed not only their relationship, but his relationship with Nate as well. Charismatic and well-connected, Tripp embodies the privilege and power of the van der Bilt name, using his charm to navigate the treacherous waters of both Washington and the Upper East Side. However, beneath his polished exterior lies a man willing to compromise morals for ambition, as seen in his willingness to manipulate situations for political gain. Tripp may seem like the ideal politician, but his actions prove that even golden boys can fall from grace.

Poppy Lifton

A fixture in the elite social scene, Poppy Lifton exudes charm, wealth, and effortless glamour—making her the perfect con artist. Known for throwing exclusive parties and mingling with Manhattan's elite, she carefully cultivates an image of sophistication and trustworthiness. Beneath the polished façade, however, she is a master manipulator, orchestrating high-stakes scams that exploit the very social circles she claims to belong to. Whether deceiving Serena or partnering with shady financiers, Poppy proves that in the Upper East Side, appearances can be the most dangerous illusion of all.

Raina Thorpe

The poised and ambitious daughter of real estate mogul Russell Thorpe, Raina Thorpe is determined to carve out her own legacy beyond her father's empire. Intelligent and independent, she enters Manhattan's power circles with a clear vision and a strong moral compass, making her stand out among the schemers of the Upper East Side. Her romance with Nate Archibald and unexpected ties to Chuck Bass complicate her journey, especially as she uncovers dark secrets about her family's past.

Aaron Rose

Aaron Rose is an artist with a free-spirited, introspective nature that sets him apart from the fast-paced Upper East Side. His relationship with Serena van der Woodsen initially positions him as an outsider to the elite crowd, yet his sincerity and passion for art attract the attention of those around him. Despite his more grounded approach to life, Aaron becomes embroiled in the drama of the social scene, especially as his artistic values clash with the superficiality of his world. With his father, Cyrus Rose, being married to Eleanor Waldorf, he also has ties to the Waldorf family.

Vanessa Abrams

Vanessa Abrams is a socially conscious, independent, and outspoken character, often standing in stark contrast to the privileged world she navigates. As a childhood friend of Dan Humphrey, she initially rejects the Upper East Side's glittering facade, but her connection to Dan leads her to scheme and plot against Upper East siders. While Vanessa's values create tension with her more glamorous peers, particularly Blair Waldorf and Serena van der Woodsen, her loyalty to her friends and willingness to fight for causes she believes in make her a complex and relatable figure. Her determination to find her place in a world of privilege is both her strength and her downfall.

Jenny Humphrey

Jenny Humphrey, the young fashion prodigy, is hungry for status and recognition. Starting as an outsider with dreams of infiltrating the elite social scene, she quickly rises through the ranks of the Upper East Side's hierarchy with a mix of ambition, cunning, and manipulation. She was previously one of Blair's minions, but got removed after Jenny attended a ball against Blair's wishes. Jenny's desire for approval, especially from Blair Waldorf, drives much of her actions, and her transformation from innocent teenager to a calculating social player showcases her growth and darker sides. Her relationships with her family—particularly her father, Rufus, and her brother, Dan—are grounding, but her ambition for power and success regularly pulls her into conflict with the city's established elites.

