

# COMMITTEE FUNDAMENTALS

We begin with a short introduction to some of the main themes that you should keep in mind before stepping into a committee.

## INTEGRATING RESEARCH

Everything that you say or write in committee ought to have some basis in the research you have conducted prior to the conference. Indeed, when giving speeches or caucusing, your words will have much more power if they are derived from facts rather than empty and general statements. So, with this in mind, how does one integrate their research into a committee setting? The process should begin a couple of weeks before the conference with a thorough examination of all of the research you have compiled up to that point.

Specifically, look for shocking, controversial, and important facts that you can utilize in comments or while negotiating with other delegates. Assemble these “special facts” onto a separate sheet of paper for quick reference. During committee, you will find that having this fact sheet will be a resource for you to use at a moments notice. Whether you are loud or a bit more reserved, ultimately, the Chairs and your fellow delegates will be more inclined to listen to you if you have a factual and well-supported position on the issues at hand.

## DOUBLE DELEGATIONS

Having a partner in committee adds another dimension to your delegation in speeches and in caucusing—but only if you know how to work as a team. Obviously, work should be split evenly, and lopsided delegations will be counted against.

**Speech** - Giving a speech with a partner requires planning and coordination. In order to combine both of your statements into one coherent message, it is essential to be clear of what your partner is going to say prior to the speech. No matter what, don't contradict or correct each other; it just looks bad. When preparing speeches, be sure to examine what each person is saying and how your arguments logically flow together.

**Caucusing** - The most important thing that co-delegates can do during caucus is to divide their presence into different discussion groups. You should never be shoulder to shoulder with your partner during caucus because it is a waste of resources. While one person is negotiating on one side of the room, the other ought to be doing something else, somewhere else like write resolutions with another group in order to make efficient use of your manpower. However, in the end, your delegation may only be a sponsor of one resolution; keep this in mind while you are caucusing.

## POLICY

What you say or do in committee must coincide with the values and the policy of the delegation you are representing. This is the most fundamental quality that Chairs look for in their delegates; the ability to stay within the scope of their country's perspectives. If you are uncertain about particular aspects of your country's policy during the conference, don't be afraid to ask your Chair for help. Your Chair would rather that you ask for assistance than have you say something off policy. But, do your best to learn your policy before the conference with research and critical thinking about the subject matter before you.

## DIPLOMACY

The reason we engage in MUN is to reach mutual understandings of the issues at hand and also of each other as delegates. Whether you are participating in intensive discussion or are listening to a speech, always give your attention and respect to the person who is speaking. Don't interrupt or raise your voice in frustration or anger. Listen to the ideas presented to you, evaluate their validity, and wait for your turn to speak in order to voice your country's opinions. Chairs have a great dislike for delegates who attempt to overpower others and force their views on the committee without regard for common courtesy. Don't be one of those delegates. A truly matured delegate is one who takes time to listen and address the views of other member states.

But diplomacy is more than just having courtesy towards other delegates. Diplomacy is more generally an open-minded approach taken towards problem solving—it is an understanding of the importance of negotiation and compromise. Never walk into a committee thinking that your way of looking things is the only right one. Although you should not go off policy, be willing to at least meet other delegates half way on their respective positions. Especially when formulating resolutions, you should not have the mind set that everything your delegation wants will be put into the written document.

Resolutions are, on the contrary, the product of a collective group of delegations compromising with each other in order to achieve a common goal.

With these main ideas in mind we can now continue by laying out the basic structure of a committee and how you can effectively play the part of a delegate.