

# CAUCUS

Caucusing is a break in official debate.

During the break, delegates confer with one another in a less rigid setting, roll up their sleeves (when applicable), and get down to the real workings of diplomacy: interaction with the other delegates. There are three types of caucuses that can be used at the BMUN conference: informal, formal, and moderated caucus.

## UNMODERATED (INFORMAL) CAUCUS

An informal caucus is the least structured of all caucuses. During an informal caucus, delegates are free to move about the committee room, interacting with one another.

### *1. What should I accomplish?*

Informal caucuses are the perfect time to form alliances with other member-states in your bloc, write and rally support for a resolution or amendment, ask questions of other delegates or the Chairs, and in general, exchange ideas and conversation with the other delegates.

### *2. How should I accomplish it?*

To be a successful delegate here, a delegate should be open, conversational, diplomatic and respectful. The Chairs are not only looking to see who is leading a discussion, they are also looking to see who is helping, contributing and respectful when others are speaking. Rudeness garners little support. To prepare for this type of caucus, be ready to discuss the ideas that are on the floor, the different resolutions and who is writing them, and the members of your nation-state's bloc (countries of the same geographic or ideological location that usually vote together). It's good to have something to contribute to the conversation, but do not be afraid to just listen and learn. The keys to being a successful caucuser are to be open, friendly, involved, contributing, and on policy. This is the time to demonstrate your interpersonal skills, absolute necessities for a successful diplomat.

## MODERATED CAUCUS

In a moderated caucus, a delegate can bring up any point that pertains to the current topic. This can be a point that was discussed earlier that you think has not had enough emphasis, or it can be something that has not been touched upon at all in committee. The moderated caucus should be faster and will hopefully liven up the committee.

### *1. What should I accomplish?*

A moderated caucus is a good time to move through ideas and debate quickly. Speakers can respond to each other with ease. This form of caucus also provides the opportunity to speak for a short period of time in front of

the whole committee without having to wait for a turn on the speakers list.

### *2. How should I accomplish it?*

A moderated caucus comment takes preparation, but not as much as a full speech. It is a good time to demonstrate the ability to speak clearly and concisely, and to make a point to the whole committee without simply repeating what the previous speaker said. The Chairs hope to hear informed, interesting, original comments that help move the discussion forward. The most important key to be successful in a moderated caucus is, first and foremost, to be on policy. Perhaps refer to something spoken earlier, but have an original point to help move the discussion along. Debate in a moderated caucus can make substantial progress if wielded correctly.

## FORMAL CAUCUS

A formal caucus is a period of time set for sponsors to speak about their resolution by explaining, clarifying, and answering questions about substantive points on their proposal.

### *1. What should I accomplish?*

Formal caucus is really the time to address the concerns of other delegations regarding your resolutions. It should be used to try to convince them your resolution is not only feasible, but also in the best interest of the committee and the international community.

### *2. How should I accomplish it?*

The simple thing to do is answer questions directly, truthfully, and succinctly. Once the sponsors come up to speak they have a fixed amount of time to both present their resolutions and yield to questions—so, don't drag on with responses.

The point of caucusing is, in the end, to exchange information in a different format than formal speeches. Caucusing can also provide many opportunities, which a delegate can seize and utilize to make himself or herself successful. The opportunity to establish blocs, write and garner support for resolutions or amendments, demonstrate interpersonal skills and diplomacy, and show the ability to remain on policy.