

SPEECH DELIVERY

With the conference lasting three days, speaking opportunities—anything from formal speeches to impromptu comments—are continually available to you. Now if the very thought of standing up in front of your committee and delivering a speech brings chills, sweaty palms and a tied tongue, you are not alone. We all have been nervous, but with a few tips and some practice you will be able to captivate your audience.

TYPES OF PUBLIC STATEMENTS

To begin, here are short descriptions of the different kinds of speaking opportunities you will have in committee.

□ Formal Speeches

Formal speeches are the main avenue of discourse in MUN. This is where explanations of the issues, country policy, and substantive solutions take place. The usual length for formal speeches is about two to three minutes. A light tap of the gavel will signal when your time is nearly up. When you hear the tap, be respectful and finish the sentence you are on. Going over time is not smiled upon by your fellow delegates or Chairs.

□ Short Comments

Short comments usually take the form of compliments or criticisms of the preceding speech only. Any comment upon any other topic aside from the preceding speech will not be heard. It is a good idea to take notes on opposing view points so you can respond to them in your comment. The key word in short comments is short – keep them concise. Length and number of short comments is set by the Chair.

□ Questions

A question pertains to the previous speech and is always directed towards the Chair. Questions are always a good way to show that you have been paying attention to the speeches. Although the delegate does not have to answer the question, it could help to pose a point that other delegates might not have thought about. They receive the same time as short comments.

SPEAKING STRATEGIES

Now that you know the basic types of speaking opportunities available to you, here are some tips to help make you the most out of your public statements.

□ Practice. As cliché as it sounds, practice makes perfect. Whether you practice in front of class or your family, make sure that the conference is not your first time in front of a crowd.

□ Know the power you hold in standing in front of a crowd. Speaking in front of an attentive crowd gives you a great amount power, but only if you are assertive in what you say. Use your speeches as opportunities to show how knowledgeable and confident you are as a delegate.

□ Know what you are talking about. Don't count on note cards or memorization. You will come across much more convincingly if you actually understand the topic that you're speaking on without reference to aids.

□ Act lively yet natural. This is not a dramatization, don't overdo it or annoy the committee or Chairs by yelling or shouting.

□ K.I.S.S. Keep It Short, and Simple. Short, sweet, and succinct will best get your point across. Choosing two or three main points will be most effective.

□ Repeat your country's name, it will help people remember you and your delegation's points.

□ Have good posture. If you stand confidently, you will speak with confidence.

□ Pay attention to your hands. Focus on limiting hand gestures. Don't allow your hands to show your nervousness by fidgeting.

□ Make impromptu speeches.

Most delegates will only be able to prepare one speech per topic before the conference. The rest of the time, you will have to come up with speeches during the course of the conference. Indeed, once committee begins the subject matter of debate may shift in many directions, and you have to be responsive to these changes in your statements in order to keep pace. Always remember that the simplest speeches are often the most effective. By using the suggested fact sheet mentioned in the section "Preparing Speeches" you will be able to take a few related facts and create one coherent and powerful speech. Giving a good impromptu speech, however, is still something that can only be learned through trial and error and by having an attitude of persistence.