



Cambridge Abu Dhabi Model United Nations

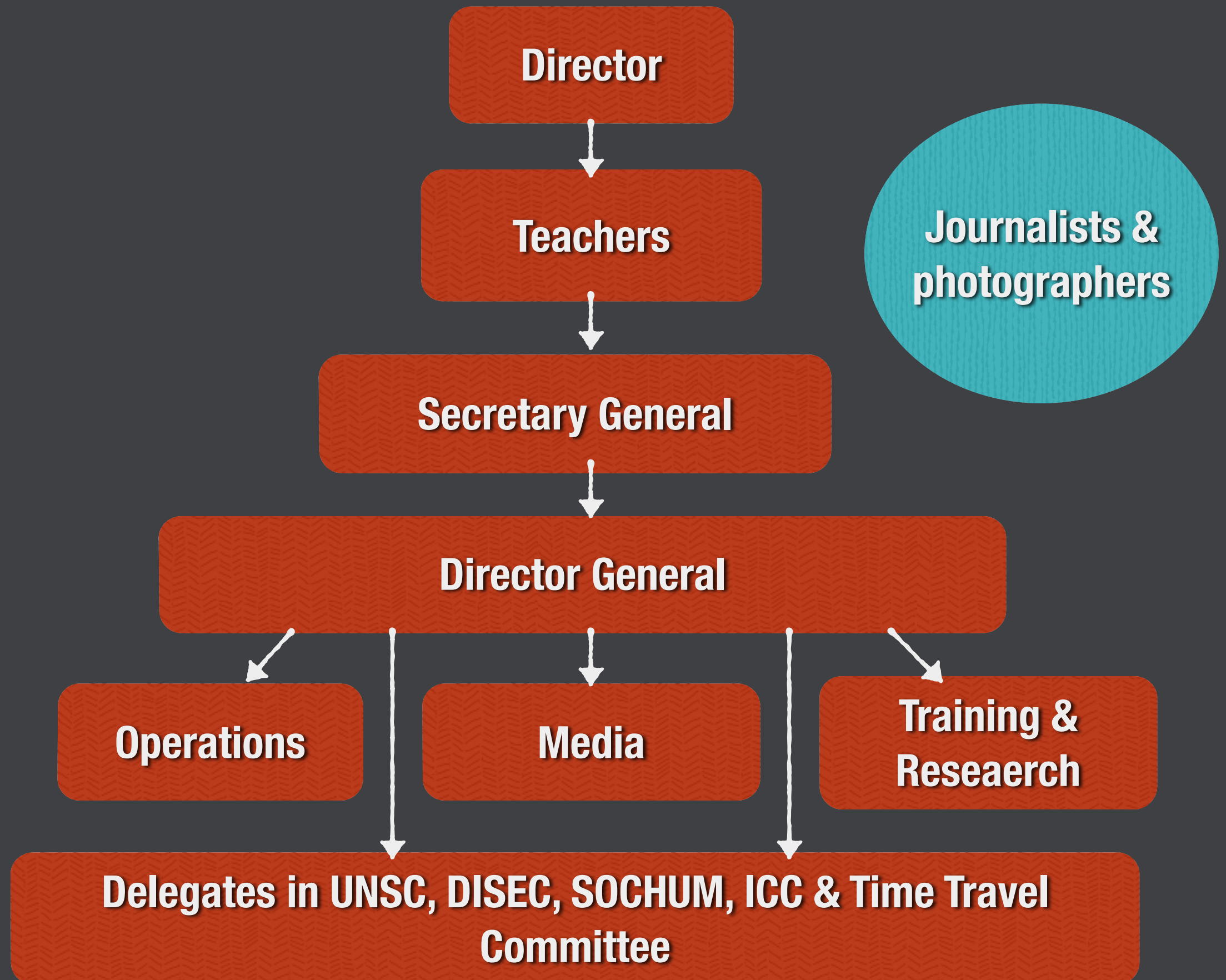
An A-Z Preparatory Guide to MUN

www.cambridgemun.org

“The first ingredient of political stability is an informed citizen.”



- ☐ What is MUN?
- ☐ What's the point?
- ☐ Structure: committees, delegations, flow of debate
- ☐ Structure of CAMUN
- ☐ Jargon and protocol
- ☐ Political spectrum & terminology
- ☐ Research: Dos and don'ts
- ☐ Types of debates and debate how-tos
- ☐ Position papers & resolutions



Flow of debate

Pre-conference Research

Quality > Quantity; range of sources, not isolated sources, predicting bias

Reflection/Debate

Diplomacy & Jargon, Debate dos and don'ts, authentic role-play

Resolution

Format & aims

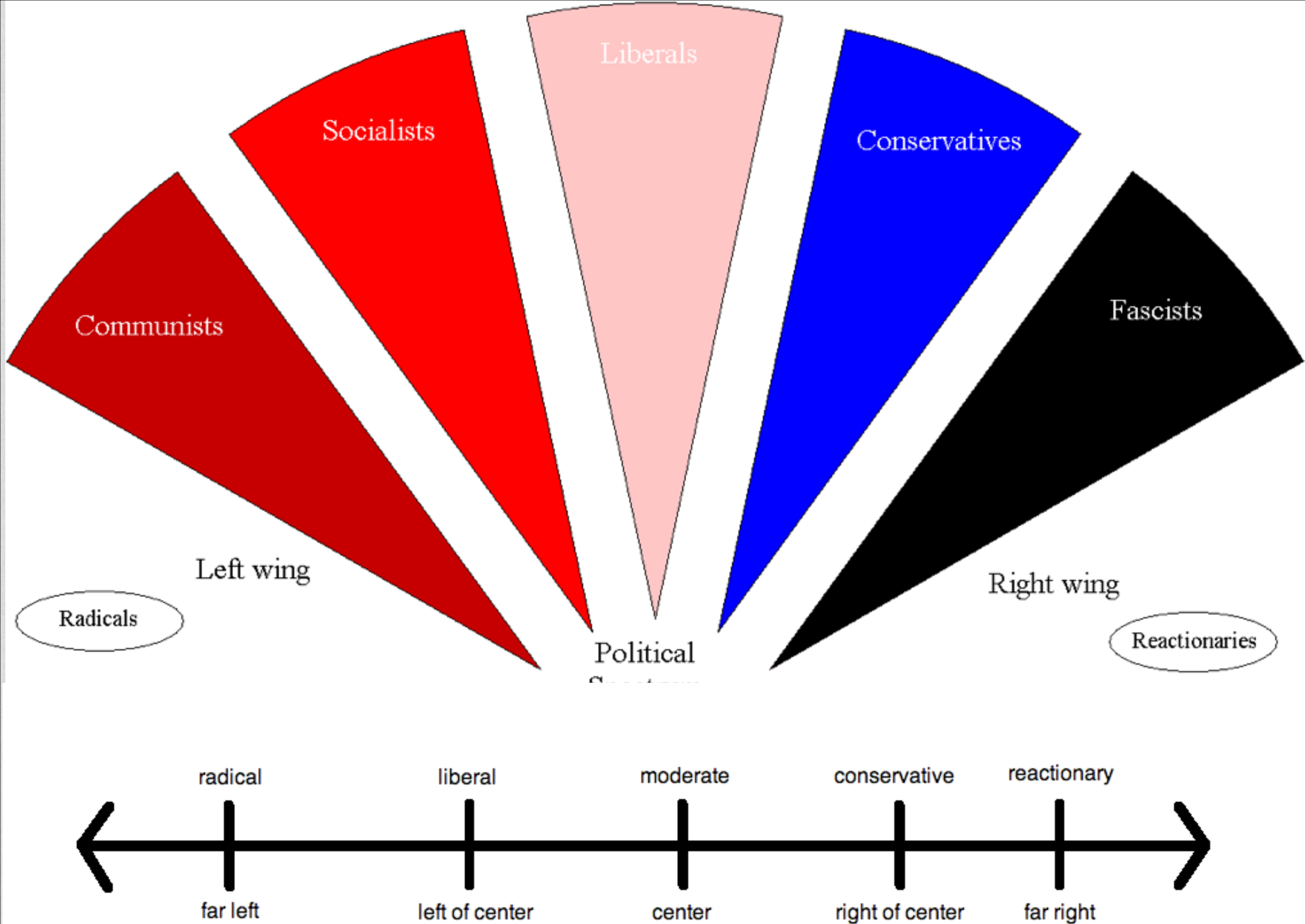


- ☐ **Point of Information**
- ☐ **Point of Order**
- ☐ **Point of Personal Privilege**
- ☐ **Point of Parliamentary Inquiry**
- ☐ **Tabling resolutions**
- ☐ **Motion to entertain a certain topic**
- ☐ **Motion to entertain submitted clause/resolution**
- ☐ **Motion to entertain previous question/voting procedures**
- ☐ **'Skipping' protocol: 'Seconds' and 'Objections'**

Language to avoid in formal debate



- ☐ Language must be politically correct and non-offensive
- ☐ No personal pronouns
- ☐ Avoid 'nation', 'countries', 'allies', 'enemies', 'freedom' and replace them with more specific words
- ☐ Avoid *malapropisms* and *catachreses*



**Avoid strawmen,
bandwagons,
anecdotes, &
ambiguities**

Refuting the Central Point

explicitly
refutes the
central point

Refutation

finds the mistake
and explains why it's
mistaken; uses quotes

Counterargument

contradicts and then backs up
contradiction with reasoning
and/or supporting evidence

Contradiction

states the opposing case
with little or no supporting evidence

Responding to Tone

criticizes to the tone of the writing
without attacking the substance of the argument

Ad Hominem

Attacks the characteristics or authority of the writer
without addressing the substance of the argument

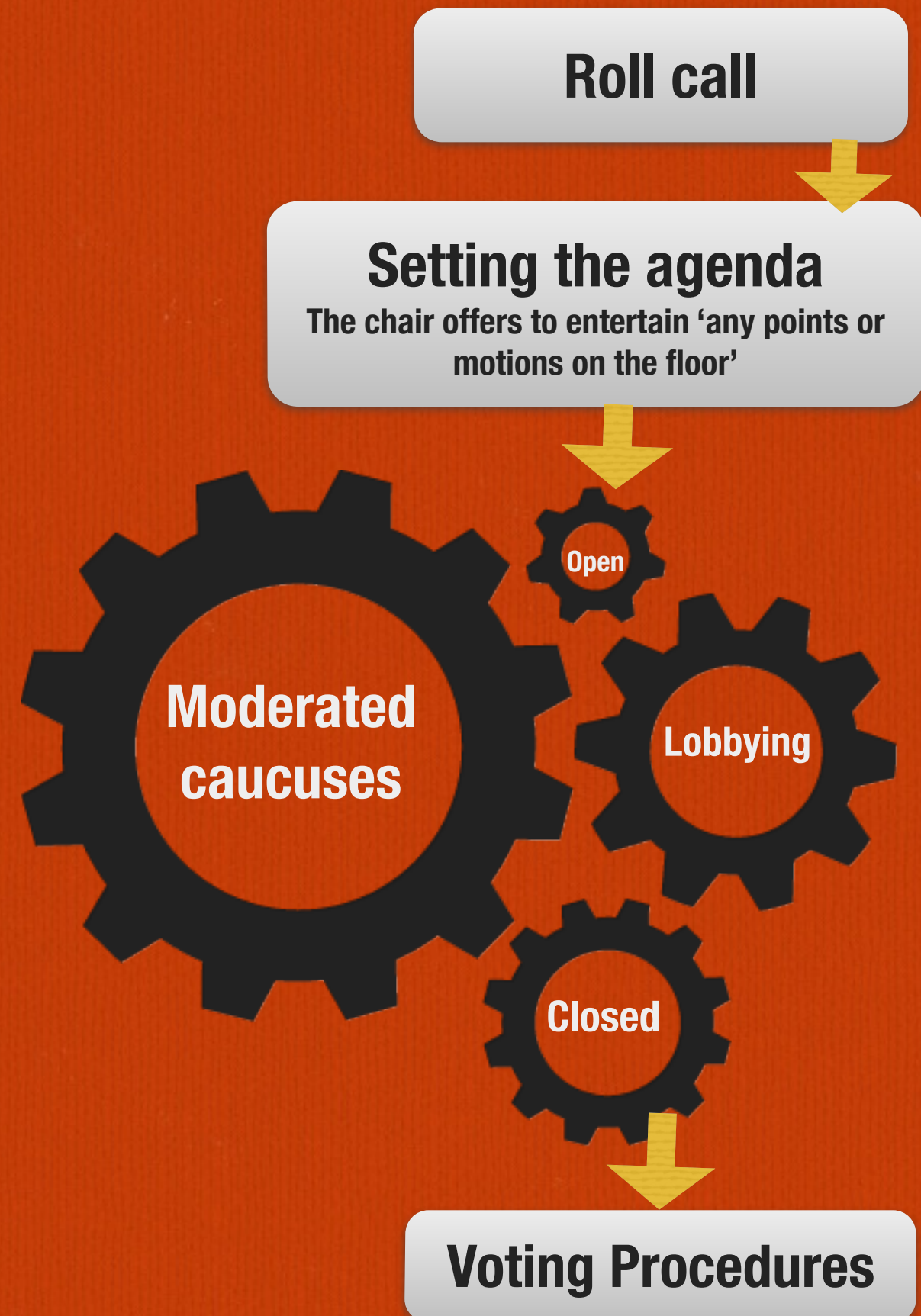
Name-Calling

Sounds something like this: you are an ass hat

- ☐ **Regime: system, rules and laws in place in a particular territory at a particular**
- ☐ **Power: ability to make others do something they might not otherwise have done**
- ☐ **Legitimacy: the right to rule or exercise power. Sources: belief systems, ideologies, founding myths, tradition, monarchy, competitive elections, revolutions, rule of law, constitutions, competitive elections**
- ☐ **Authority: Power with legitimacy**
- ☐ **Difference between nations and states**
- ☐ **Democracy does not imply freedoms**

- **Political participation: means of influencing government actions. In reality: *coup d'états, revolutions, resistance, political violence, protests, demonstrations, rallies, boycotts***
- **Political participation in the MUN arena:**
- *walkouts*
- *formation of blocs*
- *strikes and disobedience*

- ☐ Dais & Chairpeople
- ☐ The 'floor' and 'yielding'
- ☐ Points and motions
- ☐ Determining 'agenda'
- ☐ Ad Hoc vs Draft resolution
- ☐ Signatories
- ☐ Binding resolutions
- ☐ Amendments
- ☐ Friendly and unfriendly amendments
- ☐ Speakers list vs Lobbying
- ☐ Note passing
- ☐ Voting procedures
- ☐ Voting blocs
- ☐ Rule of Majority
- ☐ Role of Veto
- ☐ P5 Caucuses



Research: where and how?

- ☐ CIA World Factbook
- ☐ US State Department Background Notes
- ☐ List of Governmental Websites
- ☐ List of International Governmental Organizations
- ☐ Foreign Governments Comprehensive Web Site Listings
- ☐ Library of Congress Country Studies
- ☐ The Electronic Embassy
- ☐ Country Watch
- ☐ The Economist Country Briefings
- ☐ Government and Legal Structure by Country
- ☐ UN Maps
- ☐ Atlapedia
- ☐ InfoNation
- ☐ BBC Country Profiles
- ☐ Group of 20
- ☐ World Bank Data and Statistics
- ☐ NGO Global Network
- ☐ UN News
- ☐ Google Scholar
- ☐ Google News
- ☐ Google News Alerts
- ☐ Al-Jazeera
- ☐ BBC
- ☐ CNN
- ☐ Financial Times
- ☐ International Herald Tribune
- ☐ Le Monde Diplomatique
- ☐ New York Times
- ☐ The Economist
- ☐ The Times of London
- ☐ The Wall Street Journal
- ☐ Washington Post
- ☐ WWW Virtual Library: News Sources
- ☐ WWW Virtual Library: International Radio and Television
- ☐ WWW Virtual Library: International Relations

Research: Things you absolutely need to know

- ☐ <http://cambridgemun.org/THIMUN%20mun%20guide.pdf>
- ☐ Know the government: capital, head of state and head of government, parliamentary system, problems within the government
- ☐ Major transnational issues
- ☐ Major economic issues
- ☐ Causes & organisations state endorses
- ☐ Major events in History
- ☐ Evaluate a range of sources, not a single source

Position papers



Position paper

- ☐ Why is this issue important? Talk about recent events.
- ☐ Outline the effect of this issue, first domestically then internationally. Statistically evidence lends credence to your position.
- ☐ Outline domestic efforts in dealing with this problem if any, then international effort.
- ☐ You may be sympathetic or try to sound helpful.
- ☐ Do not blame other countries blatantly, unless the topic is about the issues of another country
- ☐ You do not need a position paper in some conferences and in times of crisis. You must have all the information that a position would usually outline to help you support your debate in case of crises.

Committee: Security Council

Topic: Towards an arms treaty: establishing common international standards for the import, export and transfer of armaments.

Country: United Kingdom

The conventional arms trade is an international occurrence and in recent times has escalated to become increasingly intricate as a result of growth of production, trade and globalization. No set of internationally agreed standards exists to ensure that arms are only transferred for appropriate use. Irresponsible imports and exports of weaponry pose a serious threat to international security. They are commonly exploited in regions which terrorists and organized criminal acts that endanger human society and infringe human rights.

The United Kingdom recognizes the gravity of governing the import, export, sale and transfer of conventional arms as it carries enormous human cost. It realizes the significance of the need for the treaty and encourages other member states to show accountability to such an issue.

Around the world 1,000 people are killed daily by small arms wielded by terrorists, insurgents and criminal gangs. This is regulatory failure at its worst. The United Kingdom will remain committed to lead the charge for a legally-binding treaty for regulation of all conventional weapons.

With reference to the above, the treaty becomes pertinent as in Syria, in today's scenario. There is mass killing of innocent civilians in Syria. The primary source of arms has been Russia, due to unregulated arms transfer. It is not hyperbolic that the treaty could mean the difference between life and mass death.

United Kingdom believes that States have a right to be provided with arms to defend their citizens, but must not fall in to the hands of those who harm development, undermine stability and democracy and abuse human rights.

The treaty shall ensure human rights, and bring to halt any transfer of arms that may be used in violation of humanitarian law and is comprehensive. UK continues to work for a treaty that is enforceable and conspicuous; that all member state legislations shall adapt to set strong national rules and regulate flow of arm trade.

Securing ATT remains a very high priority for the UK and it shall continue to champion robust legislation.

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the *Universal Declaration of Human Rights*, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, **[use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]**

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1. Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; **[use semicolons to separate operative clauses]**

2. Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3. Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6. Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. **[end resolutions with a period]**

Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Expecting	Having studied
Alarmed by	Expressing its appreciation	Keeping in mind
Approving	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with regret
Aware of	Fulfilling	Noting with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Fully alarmed	Noting with satisfaction
Believing	Fully aware	Noting further
Confident	Fully believing	Noting with approval
Contemplating	Further deploring	Observing
Convinced	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Declaring	Guided by	Realizing
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Recalling
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Recognizing
Deeply convinced	Having considered further	Referring
Deeply disturbed	Having devoted attention	Seeking
Deeply regretting	Having examined	Taking into account
Desiring	Having heard	Taking into consideration
Emphasizing	Having received	Taking note
		Viewing with appreciation
		Welcoming

Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Encourages	Further recommends
Affirms	Endorses	Further requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls	Further invites	Notes
Calls upon	Deplores	Proclaims
Condemns	Designates	Reaffirms
Confirms	Draws the attention	Recommends
Congratulates	Emphasizes	Regrets
Considers	Encourages	Reminds
Declares accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Designates	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Draws the attention	Further invites	Supports
Emphasizes	Further proclaims	Takes note of
	Further reminds	Transmits
		Trusts

Flow of debate

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Good luck!