

Battlefield Earth

A Guide to MUN

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Introduction

MUN begins by clearly understanding the position in which you will find yourself in the committee. You will begin by a thorough and complete reading and understanding of the basic materials. Know what country it is you are representing, the committee/organ of the UN or international body in which you will be representing it, and the backgrounds of the topic areas that committee will be discussing. If the Secretariat provides you with topic area background summaries, make sure that you read them.

When these basics are done, you can get started with the first step in preparing for a MUN conference: research.

The Real Deal with Research

Now that you've figured out our committee, your partnership situation and your topic areas, it's time for the most laborious aspect of the MUN experience: researching your country and sifting through the seemingly endless stream of background information. At this point in time, it is important to think critically and ask the following questions.

What is the Problem I'm being presented with?

This should be evident from the background papers sent to you by your committee chair before the conference. These documents will be the basis of your research into the topic areas. Essentially, these articles describe the events that may have precipitated the conflict you will have to deal with. Depending on the conference, the background information will be taken to various levels of detail. Whatever the case, it is important to read everything that is given to you. Often, there will be a section specifically outlining the issues that are at the heart of the topic area. Following this will be a list of bibliographic material and websites of particular interest. All of these resources should be used in order to find what the central problems are, and correspondingly, to identify avenues of exacting change. It's good to have material with perspectives different to those being advocated by the committee chair. Creativity and originality in approach to the situation will undoubtedly cause a great deal of interest in your country's positions and views. Think outside the box: find not only the policies that are exacerbating the conflict, but also, what led to these approaches being instituted in the first place. Specifically, discover the relationship between the current situation and past actions. Find the reasons why previous responses have not had the desired effect on the area of concern and observe the nature of the current strife.

MUN is essentially problem solving. While there may be differing views on how best to solve a global or a regional problem (hence the lively debates in chamber),

the spirit of the MUN is that of the international community cooperating to solve a problem that affects them.

What's My Country's Position on the Issue?

Answering this question involves three steps. First, you must research your country in general. Following this, you should find how your country's foreign policy specifically relates to the topic at hand. Finally, you should look at past actions your country has taken, and use this to predict what ways it might respond to deal with the present problem. The first part of this research section is the most time consuming, but is absolutely essential in order to accurately articulate the views and concerns of your nation within committee sessions. The country research should encompass the economic and political systems of the country, the history and culture of the society, the demographics of the society, the geography of the country (with special attention to its geo-political position), the international and regional associations the country belongs to, and the country's current domestic situation. Specifically, you should look for statistics that can be used to provide a general understanding as to how the country works, where the government's power is derived from, and what role the nation plays with its regional and global community. When researching pay particular attention to measures such as GNP, foreign debt, political philosophy, type of government, internal language and religious boundaries, population density, division of the workforce, and various geographic regions. All of these factors combine to define the unique nature of the country you will be representing, and will become particularly useful in the formulation of a foreign policy pertaining to the topic areas.

The assimilation of this research into a specific country position pertaining to the two topics is the ultimate goal of your background information gathering. By first putting yourself in the mindset of your state, you will be better able to comprehend the factors influencing national decisions, and therefore, be more representative of your country when confronted with various scenarios. After identifying the problem (Step #1 above), you must search out existing policies designed to meet the problem in your country, how the problem affects the population of your country and its relative importance to your nation at the current time. There is a legitimate possibility that your state has no official policy towards the areas being discussed (The Sultanate of Oman, for instance, has only four articles of foreign policy in total at the time of writing of this manual), and if this is the case, your job becomes more difficult. You must first identify the groups that exert power and control of the running of the country (political parties etc) and find what their standpoint on related matters might be. In doing this, you must be careful to weigh each viewpoint according to the relevant organizations with the greatest power. For instance, if my topic area were related to the legalization of medicinal narcotics, and I was assigned Canada, I would look to the majority party's political platform in order to gain insight as to how the country should be represented. If this avenue yields no success and resources on major interest groups are limited, you should then have to rely on the ideology of the government and the information uncovered in your general survey to hypothesize your country's position.

Another valuable way of generating a country position is to look at the views of other countries that have traditionally sided with your nation. For example, many African nations have similar policies regarding the availability of generic drugs to deal with the HIV crisis. Certain blocs will also be specified in your background papers. Keep these in mind for policy formulation as well as for finding potential allies during the conference.

What Additional Resources do I need to use?

There is no limit to the material that can be used in writing your position paper. Generally though, apart from the information presented in the background papers, there are a number of different sources that you should look into. Obviously, there is general Internet research where you type in various key words and explore to find something that can be incorporated in your write-up, but additionally, it's advisable to build at least a somewhat varied information base. First, you should look to embassies in your country's capital city (Seoul, Korea, for instance). Write or phone them, outline your questions and see if they can send you material or briefly answer your query. Often, they will direct you to someone who is willing to spend some time with you, and ensure that you understand how their country works. There are dozens of other organizations (such as the United Nations Information Center, Amnesty International, etc) that release detailed reports outlining various happenings and giving insight as to how certain problems should be dealt with. If you can, spend some time at the local university's political library. Even though you can't take books out, it's helpful to go and read up interpretations of the problem you're facing from different angles. Talk to your Social Studies, Government & Politics or Economics teacher; they may have suggestions as to how you should attack the issue. Finally, check with your friends and classmates who have attended MUN conferences in the past. There's a very good chance that at least one of them will have done something similar previously. They should be able to point you into the right direction, and help you start writing your position paper, the next major part of MUN preparation.

Addresses of Helpful Resource Centers

The UN Information Center: Contains General Assembly and Security Council resolutions as well as free information on many topics. While (given its location in Washington, DC) you will most likely be unable to visit it personally, it is possible for them to suggest books that may be helpful.

UN Information Center
1889 F Street NW Ground Floor
Washington, DC 20006
1-202-289-8670
<http://www.unicwash.org/>

UNA-USA: The UNA-USA has a wide variety of information materials including fact sheets on numerous topics. You can contact them and request certain resources or, if at a New York area conference, pick some up for future use.

UNA-USA

485 Fifth Avenue
New York, NY 10017
1-212-697-3232
<http://www.unausa.org/>

Embassies: The addresses of embassies can be obtained by an Internet search. In Korea, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade can direct you to a foreign embassy in Korea. As a general rule, however, written responses can take a very long time.

Some embassies have Public Affairs Sections, which are devoted to answering the kind of queries you will have for them (The US Embassy, for example, maintains a Public Affairs Section in a separate building from the main complex).

The United Nations: If you can't get a certain document from a library, you can contact the U N directly and obtain or purchase them from the Public Inquiries Unit.

Public Inquiries Unit
Department of Public Information
United Nations, NY 10017
1-212-936-4475

The Position Paper: Time to Fire on All Cylinders

The position paper is literally your Bible throughout the conference. Essentially, the paper forces you to write out your country's viewpoints in paragraph form. Its also the first important mode of evaluation for the committee chair; all papers must be submitted in advance to the Conference Secretariat. Naturally, given its significance to the MUN experience, the position paper is something you want to excel at, and to do this, several criteria must be met. At the onset of this discussion on the position paper it is particularly significant to stress that it must be written from your country's perspective. Again, as this document will be your guideline for action throughout the entire conference, it's in your best interests to give an accurate portrayal of your country's stance on the issues at hand. Simply put, the position paper is meant to give delegates an opportunity to organize their research into an organized policy statement.

Before you start writing, it's important to look at the questions that are outlined in your background research packet (the documents sent to you by the committee chair). Suggesting a comprehensive course of action that answers these queries is the ultimate goal of your write-up. A good position paper should make clear reference to these guidelines and demonstrate that the students clearly comprehend the creative and compositional depth required for an MUN simulation.

If one were looking for some sort of rubric as to what the ideal position paper should consist of, there would be a number of clearly identifiable elements. The position paper has a definite general structure to it: three sections (totaling one page in length; your committee chair is unlikely to reward you for writing a long-

winded, multiple-page thesis), each of which serves a clear purpose within the general context of the paper. With reference to Model Position Paper A (next page), we can analyze these different parts and comment on the relative successes of specific techniques used to elucidate points.

The first section (labeled “A”) serves the purpose of outlining the topic in general and providing insight into the root of the conflict. As the subject of the paper is Free Trade, the write-up begins by first stating the areas of concern, discussing positive and negative aspects of globalization, as well as emphasizing the controversial nature of the topic at hand. Your opening paragraph should, as this paper attests to, be a brief summary of the current perception held towards the *status quo*. It should state the problem and express why it is significant.

The second section (labeled “B”) is where your background research on your country pays off. First, you should identify and describe your country. Be sure to state how your nation relates to the topic for discussion, specifically citing how your state has been affected (B1). It is imperative to emphasize the extent to which change has taken place. Hold off any normative judgments in this section; the purpose of this paragraph is not to evaluate the institution or development in reference to your country, but rather, to merely discuss how it has altered domestic dynamics.

The third section (labeled “C”) is where you outline your country’s policies and what factors contributed to those policies being established in the first place. At this point, you are to address the relative benefits (if any) and detriments of the development, specifically relating to your nation and the actions you have taken to maximize or minimize these effects. You are to explain why your country has acted in a certain fashion historically (C1), and why it will continue to follow this course of action. Outline your state’s particular interest in the issue being discussed, and begin to discuss what needs to be changed about the current interpretation of the situation. Cite the areas needing reform (C2) and provide suggestions as to how this revision process should be accomplished. Following this, you may want to focus on one area of particular concern for your country (C3). Depending on your topic area, this could be anything from the effect of a war on a nation’s health care infrastructure to how creating new national boundaries may affect resource deposits running along the potential borders. In this particular paper, attention is brought to Regional Trade Alliances (C4) and their associated problems, something that, as has been noted, holds special significance to Oman. By approaching a problematic scenario in greater detail, you are demonstrating to the Chair and to fellow delegates that you have the capacity to think critically and can identify the issues with which your country has the greatest concern. This being said, choose this area carefully: given the issue’s prominence in your position paper (and correspondingly the problem’s significance to your country as a whole), you will have to stress its importance during committee session. Be sure to select an area of concern that could potentially form the basis of a resolution, or at least one that can stimulate prolonged debate.

Finally, a conclusion should be written to restate your country's position and sum up what you hope to achieve through the duration of the conference (D).

The position paper leaves the committee chair with a first impression of your delegation. Naturally, it's important to make that impression as strong as possible. The staff looks for original and critical thinking, a true understanding of the nature of your nation and both a functional and applied knowledge of your topic. Be sure to demonstrate this through presenting a concise yet effective paper. As expressed before, be sure to dedicate equivalent energy to position papers for both topic areas. They are equally important in the eyes of the committee and the directors (the people who will be evaluating your write-ups).

After submitting your position paper to the conference secretariat, there usually is a waiting time. As you will no doubt be busy with schoolwork, don't worry excessively about preparation. On weekends, however, you may find it helpful to review material and do more researching so as to keep up to date with the latest happenings. Other than that, get ready for Showtime!

Model Position Paper A

Topic: Free Trade

Country: Oman

Committee: Economic and Financial (ECOFIN)

(A) The tumultuous conflict surrounding the issue of free trade and its variegated ramifications has been a moot point ever since the creation of the modern state. While exponents of free trade argue that comparative advantage and the development of economies of scale outweigh the associated detriments of a free market economy, their adversaries purport that smaller, national economies that are inundated with cheaper international goods from free trade begins to flounder and lose self-sustainability. Those in opposition to free trade, also make reference to the exponentially rising human rights and environmental violations that are a direct consequence of burgeoning global market.

(B) Oman is perched in the putatively lofty position of an oil-exporting nation. However, this appraisal is a mere simulacrum of our actual situation. **(B1)** Oman relies on entities such as the World Trade Organization to help facilitate the purchasing and exchange of good across the global market, thus enabling essential goods to disseminate across our land. Prior to the admission of the Sultanate of Oman into the WTO, the country was involved at an economic level with the nations of Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC), although Oman was never a member. In spite of this, Oman generally adheres to their collective mandate in order to fix oil prices and protect the special interests of this conglomerate.

(C) Oman joined the WTO in order to voice its support for the continuing liberalization of world markets. **(C1)** Furthermore, Oman believes that this unique amalgamation acts as a vehicle for increased prosperity by raising the amount of Foreign Direct Investment and domestic stimulation. Oman, due to its new position in the WTO, has now broadened trade with Western nations, and hopes for this trend to continue. **(C2)** However, Oman also recognizes that in order for the economic infrastructure of not only Oman, but also other developing countries to remain stable, the steps of tariff reduction, and all-encompassing globalization must be gradual, lest there be recurrences of strife, as initially seen in the Former Yugoslavia and the Russian Federation. The WTO must also take further steps to impose a universal human rights and environmental standards operating code, which must be enforced uniformly.

With the need for international cooperation has come the desire for regional association. This chain of motivation for many a nation has manifested itself in the formation of Regional Trading Associations. **(C3)** Although this arrangement ostensibly accommodates both desires, it actually results in alliances whose members are common enough in geographic similarity to have some consensus, but diverse enough to yield almost unremitting disapprobation from some of the parties on any given issue. Therefore, these theoretical constructs when applied in reality are far from seamless and are not the definitive solutions to conflicting national agenda.

(C4) In Oman's specific scenario, the aforementioned generalization holds true. Consequently, Oman is not a member of OPEC. In addition, not only do there exist the problems inherent to RTA's, but also the members of OPEC lack significant economic diversity in various industrial and resource sectors to make such a pact mutually pragmatic. Rather, this specific concern is ignored in light of the prodigious matter of oil, which takes the forefront in any discussions of world trade.

(D) Oman believes that the benefits of comparative advantage, economies of scale, and specialization outweigh the problems associated with a world abiding by principles of increasing economic globalization and free trade. This being said, Oman pushes for the continued expansion of such policies while urging organizations such as the WTO to refine specific clauses so that the exploitation of labor and the environment does not go unchecked.

Editor's Note

This example Position Paper is not a model of perfection. It has its share of flaws, identifying of which should be left as an exercise for the student. At the same time, it does serve as a model of a good position paper that delegates may use as a reference.

Further note that this paper, having been written in 2001, is significantly dated and the information found herein should be used with caution.

The Conference and Committees: Time to Take a Stand

When the conference begins, it's time for all your research to finally pay off. Once the opening ceremonies have concluded (be sure to relax and enjoy the speakers during this section - you'll need to be charged up), it's time for the first session of the MUN. Often, conferences will give you a short period for dinner, but to find a restaurant (or wait in line at one - there will be hundreds or sometimes even thousands of delegates hoping to get a bite) and eat comfortably requires more time than one hour will provide. Take a drink and a snack with you, power it down, and go mingle in your assigned room. As the delegates filter in, many will take the opportunity to come up and introduce themselves—they'll tell you their names, countries, what they feel the topic of greatest concern is and just about anything else they can do to get you initially on their side. At this point, you have the opportunity to join in and talk to other entering delegates, or sit down and collect your thoughts. Be advised, though it may seem pointless (and while some of your fellow delegates may frighten you with their infinite pool of knowledge), now is a good time to build connections. Find out where everyone stands on the issues at hand, and particularly socialize with those who seem to have similar positions to you. It's also good to take the chance to relate countries to faces, so that you'll know exactly who to look for if a question arises. Most important, however, is to scout out a spot in the front of the room, in plain view of the Chair. The reasons for this are twofold: firstly, this location allows the Chair to clearly identify you, and correspondingly call on you throughout session. Secondly, all the "keeners" tend to locate themselves at the front. These are the people you want to associate with. Proximity to them leads to dialogue, and eventual alliance building. This will be incredibly helpful later on as you scramble to get endorsers for your resolution.

Setting the Agenda

Eventually, the Chair will call the room to order after which he or she will proceed with role call to ensure that everyone is present. So long as a quorum exists (40% of the countries are present), the Chair will ask for someone to move for the agenda to be set. This is the first major action of the committee. Before any debate on a specific topic can take place, UN procedures dictate that the order in which the topics will be discussed must be established. In most cases, this involves the committee deciding whether or not Topic A or Topic B should be addressed first. This is the time for you to voice your opinion as to which holds the greatest relevance to the committee and the world as a whole. Naturally, you're also going to want to pick the area that you are the most proficient at as well. The Moderator will call for a Speakers' List to be set up for countries wishing to express their views. The Speakers' List is something you will become familiar with by the end of the conference as it shows the speaking order of the delegations. Raise your placard (You are provided with these before the conference - A placard is a sign with your country's name on it) if you wish to go up and talk. As there will no doubt be a number of them in the air, hold it high and straight so that it's easy for the chairperson to see you and add you to the list. After all names have been added, delegates speak for roughly one minute (the times are set by the chair) where after comments can be made by two other delegations. To comment, you must raise your placard at the conclusion of the student's speech (as long as he hasn't yielded his time to any source) and move

to comment on the speaker's content. You will then be given 30 seconds to speak. The only restriction is that your speech must directly pertain to the message given by the previous delegate. If at any time you find yourself near the bottom of the speakers list, comments are a great way to let the committee hear your opinions.

After hearing several speakers advocating different sides of the agenda setting, the chair will eventually call for a motion to close debate on setting the topic order. A vote will be taken and within a few minutes you'll find out what the committee will be covering first. Many times, this will be the only topic that will be addressed.

Making Major Motions and Rules of Procedure

Before discussing the process of making speeches and tips for negotiations, it's helpful to have a grasp of the rules you're expected to adhere to while in simulation. There are certain ways of bringing up points, and terms that you'll have to commit to memory. The best way to cover these is simply to list them off. The rules of procedure are arranged in order of precedence (which point is recognized by the chair first).

Point of Personal Privilege: This can be used at anytime and states to the chair that your ability to participate in the discussions is being hindered in some way. This could be as a result of too much noise or talking by fellow delegates, or because you simply can't understand what the speaker is saying (a malfunctioning microphone for instance). Simply raise your placard (even if someone is up at the front speaking) and you will be called upon to state your problem.

Point of Order: This again can be used at any time (but only during a speech when the speaker himself has violated a procedure) and states to the chair that one of the rules governing debate may have been broken.

Point of Parliamentary Inquiry: This can be used only when the floor is open (when no one is speaking or addressing the chair). Raising this point allows a delegate to ask a question about the MUN directly to the moderator.

Adjournment or Suspension of Debate: This motion occurs at the end of every session and calls for all discussion to be carried over to the next meeting so that the delegates can feed themselves or catch some shut-eye. Everything remains exactly as it was before (the Speakers list stays the same). One half of the committee must vote in favor of this motion for it to pass.

Closure of Debate: This calls for an end of all debate on a substantive matter (for example a topic area). It requires the votes of two-thirds of the committee, and if passed, the Speakers list is closed and a vote immediately takes place on the resolutions currently on the floor (with any ones receiving a majority of the votes passing). When this motion is introduced, two speakers are permitted to speak against it.

Postponement of Debate: This (as the title aptly puts) calls for a postponement of any discussion of any resolution or amendment. This would result in the document being taken off the floor, and, as a result, it could no longer be referred to be delegates. This motion requires a two-thirds majority and when it is introduced, one speaker is allowed to speak in favor of it, and another, against it.

Division of The Question: This is arguably the hardest motion for new delegates to comprehend. When a resolution is about to be voted on (after debate has been closed) or an amendment has been proposed, a delegate can motion to divide the question, or split up the resolution (or amendment) up into different sections (i.e. clause by clause) and each of these sections to be voted on individually. This is helpful when one particular part of a resolution is controversial, and the majority approves the rest. If successful, dividing the question allows for the good parts to be kept, and the bad parts to be edited out without completely failing a resolution. You can divide the resolution in any manner you feel is relevant. Two speakers are allowed to speak for and against this motion when it is introduced, and it requires a one half majority to pass.

Introduce Amendment or Resolution: This motion is used to bring a resolution or amendment to the floor so that discussion can begin on it. It requires a one half majority. If it passes, the writers of the amendment or resolution are invited up to read it aloud clause by clause and answer any questions on it.

Resumption of Debate: This motion is used to propose that debate be resumed on a resolution or amendment. This essentially cancels postponement motions. A two-thirds majority is required, and when this motion is made, two speakers can stand up and voice their opinions against it.

Appeal: This motion requires a two-thirds majority and goes right to the Moderator. An appeal is used to question the ruling of a Moderator or Chairperson. He or she then defends the decision and the motion is then put to a vote.

Right of Reply: If at any point in time during the committee session, you are personally insulted, you have the option of going to the front and defending yourself from these erroneous allegations. As a general rule, these are amusing to watch.

There are two specific procedural motions/rules that have not been discussed thus far because of their particular importance and the need the stress them separately: namely, motions for caucus and yields.

Caucus: The Most Intense Part of The Conference

Without a doubt, caucus is where the most meaningful discourse during the committee sessions occurs. There are two types of caucuses: unmoderated and moderated. Both caucuses are established by motions (in terms of precedence, these rank right after adjournment of a meeting). The motion requires the support of one half of the committee, and must, when it is made, have a specific time limit and purpose (for example, to discuss a new resolution or idea that's

just been brought up). Moderated caucuses are when delegates have the opportunity to speak for a period of time by raising their placards and being called upon by the Moderator. The Speakers list tends to move very slowly, and moderated caucuses occur often to infuse the committee room with new opinions and arguments. During a moderated caucus, you should try to not only forward your own ideas, but also, critique and evaluate the beliefs of those before you. Clash not only stimulates debate, but also makes you look “on the ball” to the chair. Take good notes while the other delegates speak, as you will never know when the chair will call on you. So long as you keep your placard raised, you can be next or tenth in line. While the moderated caucus provides some semblance of structure for organized discussion, the unmoderated or unmediated caucus is the exact opposite. Once an unmoderated caucus has been declared, the room turns into anarchy for the time period. It is, more or less, a break, where the rules of procedure are abandoned, and the room turns into a huge MUN free for all. During this time, take an opportunity to walk around the room, discuss ideas with fellow delegates or work on a resolution. While it's a break from MUN rules, it's not a break from the MUN. This is time that can be used constructively, and with all the other delegates completely at your disposal, you should take advantage of this opportunity.

Yields

As opposed to simply sitting down at the conclusion of your speech, there exists the option of yielding the remainder of your time to three different sources. Yields can be made to the Chair, to questions and to another country. Yielding to the chair prevents any comments (resulting from comment motions) from being made on your speech. If you have just said something particularly controversial and don't want to give any opposition faction the chance to refute your points, this is the best option. Yielding to questions allows for other delegates to pose inquiries about your contentions or about the topic in general for your remaining time. This is usually the best option so long as you have an opportunity to answer the queries (Do not yield to questions when you have four seconds remaining). Yielding to another country gives a delegation of your choice your remaining time. Often, delegates may yield to allies, who in turn, use the period to support their mutual case. One final point: you may only yield on constructive speeches, that is, speeches for which you have been called from the speakers list. Moderated caucuses, and comments do not offer yield opportunities.

General Speaking Tips

When going up to make a speech, confidence in your biggest asset. If you give the impression that you feel strongly about what you are saying, others will feel the same way too. Be sure that you look presentable (Blazer done up, shirt tucked in): first impressions are very important. The first speech you make (After being called up from the speakers list - make sure that you raise your placard quickly once the topic has been set so that you will be given a reasonably high spot) should outline your country's foreign policy and how it relates to the issue at hand. As this is a descriptive statement, you can prepare this well in advance. Be sure to mention any current or historical action that your country has taken in reference to the topic. From then on, your speeches should be predominantly analysis of committee happenings and evaluations of the suggestions put forth

by other delegations. It's always impressive when you can directly quote statements made by other nations and use them to emphasize a point. Other than that, make sure to relax, keep yourself involved in discussions happening in and out of the session room, and be sure to stick to your country's policy.

About a session and a half into the conference, people will begin to talk about Resolution writing. The ultimate goal of an MUN is to create a resolution that passes with the unanimous support of the committee. The working paper and the resolution will be the next major step in the Model United Nations process.

Resolutions and Working Papers: You've Got The Power

Writing a comprehensive resolution as a solution to the problem presented in your topic area is the goal of your committee. By passing this document and ending all substantive debate, you and your colleagues are not only reaffirming your solidarity and commitment to honoring this mutual pact, but also, are demonstrating that you have reached an equitable and viable solution. The resolution reflects everything that has thus far been discussed: compromise, your national policy, and new developments occurring during session. It is not meant to be something prepared beforehand, nor a word-for-word account of your position paper, rather, it is meant to be a result of debate and negotiation with your allies, fellow bloc nations, and other countries sharing your viewpoints. This being said, for you to support a resolution, you must be sure that it falls within your national policy. You cannot simply sign on to every piece of paper that passes your way. Often, to ensure that one's interests are being met, delegates will often start their own resolutions. So long as you have the input of other countries (that will support the document during committee session), this is a fantastic idea. Be sure, however, that there aren't already ten resolutions already on the floor; joining a group already espousing ideas you agree with would be far more productive than simply starting from scratch and repeating many of their ideas.

Working Papers

Before the resolution stage, comes the Working paper stage. A working paper can be described as a "Baby Resolution", as it lacks great deals of complexity and detail that are often found in the latter paper. Essentially, the working paper serves the function of codifying various ideas major ideas buzzing around the room, and organizing them into a clear statement. While they do not have the importance of a resolution, working papers are still an integral of the MUN experience. By identifying yourself with a particular viewpoint or stance, you can attract other delegations to your side. Other groups are able to have easy access your bloc stance (working papers are passed out on sheets of paper), and as a result of this, they will know exactly how much they can compromise, and can find their relative compatibility with your position. By having a hard copy of your stance throughout the session, they can make reference to their concerns during moderated caucuses or speaking times. By compromising and receiving constructive feedback, you can add or change clauses so that your resolution (the next logical step) will be met with greater support and popularity.

Writing a Working Paper is fairly simple. The rules of format are not as strict or comprehensive as those regulating resolutions. While working papers can be written in resolution format (see section later in write-up), there are numerous

other fashions in which they can be submitted, depending on the conference. For the most part, however, it's the content, not the organization, that's the biggest concern. Finally, you should know that Working Papers are informal documents: they need not be introduced in the same fashion as a resolution. They are simply put up and distributed. This being said, get started on one early in the conference; you'll impress fellow nations and the chair.

The Resolution In Brief

Once some working papers have been put on the floor and several ideas have been debated and discussed both in unmoderated and moderated caucuses, the time has come to get together with other delegates and begin writing a resolution.

As noted before, a resolution is a formal and comprehensive course of action to react to the problems presented by the topic area. Once it has been written, a resolution must be submitted to the committee chair who then authorizes the copying (so that all delegates receive your work) and distribution of the paper. Before submission, you must ascertain the signatures of several delegates (this varies between conferences - some require as few as 5, others as many as 25), who wish for the resolution to be introduced to the committee as a whole. These delegates prove to the committee chair that there is enough support for the document to justify bringing before all the delegates during the session. Often, these signatories will form the backbone of the resolution's support group but this is not always the case. A student who signs a resolution may simply be voicing his or her support for the resolution being debated on the floor and the ideas contained within it, being evaluated and improved upon.

Writing the Resolution

At the very top of any resolution should be the committee you are in. There should be no other titles or statements, just the committee name (and at some conferences, the names of the resolution writers right below that).

The first part of the resolution are the perambulatory clauses: adverbial and adjectival phrases used to describe the committee's intent, motivation, and frame of mind when writing the resolution. As shown by sentence "A" on sample Resolution A, perambulatory are meant to be concise and effective. All perambulatory clauses begin with capital letters and have the first word (the adverbial or adjectival modifier) underlined (**AI**). When writing a resolution for the first time, you may find yourself at a loss for "first words" or opening for one of the perambulatory clauses. To help you out, here is a list that includes some, but definitely not all, of the opening options. Be sure to vary these throughout your write-up.

Perambulatory Clause "First Words"

Affirming	Alarmed by	Approving
Aware of	Believing	Bearing in Mind
Confident	Considering also	Contemplating
Convinced	Declaring	Deeply concerned
Deeply convinced	Desiring	Emphasizing
Expecting	Fulfilling	Fully Aware

Further deploring
Having Considered
Noting further
Reaffirming

Further Recalling
Heaving examined
Noting with regret
Recognizing

Gravely concerned
Keeping in Mind
Noting with Zest
Welcoming

After the perambulatory clauses, come the operative clauses (B on Sample Resolution A): the main body of the resolution. The operative clauses contain the "action" of the resolution: literally, what is being proposed or suggested. As a general rule, the clauses are group according to their subject matter. In terms of format, each operative clause starts with a capitalized present tense verb in the third person singular to, as with the perambulatory clauses, to demonstrate the intentions and goals of the committee. Remember this is where your content must go! Be sure to put as much material as possible in your resolution: the more comprehensive and all encompassing it is, the less likely it will need to be amended or changed.

Furthermore, by submitting a large resolution you are allowing for the more controversial factors to be discussed and edited out (by division of the question) without having a major impact on the resolution as a whole; taking one clause away out of 17 is less than one out of 6. Be willing to compromise: the most successful resolutions are those that result from the combination of many different ones.

Also, try to work in smaller rather than larger groups. We've all heard the saying too many cooks spoil the broth, and MUN is not different. If you are with a group of thirty people, nothing will be accomplished. Everyone will try to talk at the same time, and it will be impossible to control order.

An hour after beginning, you'll find yourself with nothing accomplished and a massive headache. Work with a few people, then go individually to other countries and bounce ideas off them. This way, you can still work constructively and get input from other blocs. Be sure to make reference to the Model Resolution if there is an area that you don't fully understand. The Model paper is based on the prototype used by many different US College hosted MUN's.

Just as with the perambulatory clauses, there is a list of operative openings that are commonly used. Again, these are just a few samples that may come in handy during session:

Operative Clause "First Words"

Accepts

Approves

Calls upon

Congratulates

Decides

Deplores

Further Invites

Further Recommends

Has resolved

Affirms

Authorizes

Commends

Confirms

Declares accordingly

Designates

Further Proclaims

Further Resolves

Notes

Appeals

Calls

Condemns

Considers

Demands

Further Endorses

Further Reminds

Further Requests

Offers

Proclaims
Reminds
Solemnly affirms

Reaffirms
Renews
Strongly condemns

Recommends
Requests

It should be noted that subtle nuances and shades of meaning carry vital importance in diplomacy. Put a lot of thought into your word choices, and also pay attention to the word choices of others.

Resolution Jargons

There are some diplomatic jargons that may be used in MUN settings. It would be helpful to know the meanings of these phrases.

“Decides to remain actively seized of the matter” (or similar)

Usually appended as the last line of a resolution, this means that the committee will not simply forget about this issue with this resolution, but rather, continuously monitor and pay attention to the situation that has caused the creation and the passage of the resolution.

Serious Consequences

When a resolution threatens “serious consequences” (a Security Council resolution, for example), it refers to all punitive measures short of actual violence.

By All Means Necessary

A resolution to accomplish some goal “by all means necessary” is a code for military action.

Diplomatic Jargons

There are some phrases that diplomats may use. By their very nature, diplomatic phrases are exceedingly polite and somewhat vague. Here is a brief list of what a diplomat may say, and what it probably means. This is by no means a comprehensive list, and the meanings may not always be correct.

“My government cannot remain indifferent to the dispute.”

Means: “My government will undoubtedly intervene in the dispute.”

“My government views with concern...”

Means: “This is a matter on which we intend to adopt a strong line.”

“In such an event, we would feel bound carefully to reconsider our position.”

Means: “The present state of friendliness between the two countries is about to end.”

“We feel obliged to tender grave reservations concerning the matter.”

Means: “My government will not allow it to happen.”

“In that event, my government will be obliged to consider its own interests.”

Means: “We will consider severance of relations.”

“That will be regarded as an unfriendly act.”

Means: “My government will have no other option than to use force.”

“My government must decline to be responsible for the consequences.”

Means: “My government is about to provoke an incident which will eventually lead to war.”

“My government asks for clarification as to how it should interpret...”

Means: “My government has been provoked by your action/words/inaction and diplomatic goodwill is at stake.”

“Such an event would lead to grave consequences.”

Means: “This is a direct and strong threat of war.”

The subtleties and shades of meaning in language differ from country to country. While it is your choice as to how direct or subtle you will be, it is usually a good idea to adapt to the culture of your fellow delegates, rather than necessarily the culture of the country you’re representing.

Model Resolution A

* The Topic Area of This Resolution is Free Trade

The Economic and Financial Committee:

Reaffirming the importance of such organizations as the World Trade Organization (WTO), United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), the International Monetary Fund (IMP), the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) to ensure Global growth and prosperity to both developed and developing nations **(A)**,

Recognizing (A1) that certain Developing Nations are faced with the adverse effects of free trade,

Understanding that feasible measures ensuring the benefits of trade liberalization will enable the economies of developing nations to prosper,

Fully believing that a Regional Trading Agreements (RTAs) provide stable networks of nations with common economic goals which serve as safety nets to any potential economic crisis,

Fully aware that a nation's sovereignty must not be infringed upon through any measure taken to increase global prosperity in the International community,

Bearing in mind that a definite goal of the ECOFIN Committee is to successfully integrate developing nations into a more equitable global economy,

Noting with zest that strong infrastructures are crucial to sustainable development:

1. Strongly suggests (B) reform in the IMF's policies pertaining to:
 - a. strengthening the security with the IMF to prevent corruption
 - b. development of nations' economic profiles before the IMF enters the nation
 - c. increasing funding to underdeveloped nations;
 - d. using tranches more than giving extensive loans or credits to nations;
2. Urges UNCTAD and the CSD to take more direct action in helping to construct infrastructures that will aid underdeveloped nations in getting on the road to economic stability and entrance into the international economy in such areas as:
 - a. banking
 - b. exchange rates
 - c. tariffs (protective or general)
 - d. internal and external fiscal and monetary policy
3. Calls upon the UNDP to continue to support development programs with the primary objective of building basic societal infrastructure:

- a. This shall be accomplished by expanding current programs based on political and legal reconstruction in a larger global scale.
 - b. Such aid by the United Nations Development Program will be dispensed at the discretion of concerned nations.
4. Calls for the transfer of relevant science and technology information between existing regional agreements and between individual nations in the effort to build infrastructure;
 - a. Regional trade agreements such as the Asian Free Trade Agreement (AFTA) which have lowered their tariffs by 85% on exchanges of technologies and other information are representative of the goals of the WTO/TRIPS rules and guidelines;
5. Further implores that developing nations follow a multi-step plan to assist their transition into the global economy
 - a. Increase the asset allocation to those economic sectors which they are most disposed to promoting i.e. those sectors which hold the greatest potential for specialization in order to gain a comparative advantage on the world stage through the concentration of foreign direct investment (FDI), funding from the UNDP, WB, and IMF upon request from that nation and review by the aforementioned organizations
 - b. Expand imports of goods into those nations only to the extent that it initiates enough competition for that native, domestic economic sector to see the need to continue the pursuit of improvement in its respective sector.
 - c. Satisfy domestic markets, *i.e.*, they can successfully compete through domestic competition, and a review will take place to decide whether or not the industries have grown while similar products compete on the regional and international scale with review conducted by UNCTAD, ensuring this will be done;
 - d. Begin a large scale expansion of exports to raise GDP (through net exports), as well as the stabilization of the value of the domestic currency;
6. Recognizes that there are alternatives to protective tariffs and pushes for the creation of many permanent joint-Committees by the respective national governments and United Nations agencies for the purposes of:
 - a. Encouraging foreign investment into nations emerging economically;
 - b. Preparing industries for competitive imports by granting general and targeted subsidies upon review of that specific domestic economic sector
 - i. Such subsidies shall be administered and evaluated by the national governments in tandem with advisors from UNCTAD.
 - c. Reviewing whether a firm will experience competitive, profitable advantage under free trade so that firms will not depend upon government protection of imports;

- d. Stimulating market innovations by assisting market research and locating strategic partners for competition.
7. Realizes the necessity of regional trade agreements as interlocutory arrangements (i.e. between the status quo and the free open market) for developing nations to reduce or drop tariffs while expanding their exports.
8. Acknowledges many of the benefits and associated detriments of amalgamating and expanding RTAs, hence, calls for a committee to be struck with the purpose of evaluating the viability and equity of growing RTAs.
 - a. This board would also be responsible for advising member nations as to the relative sustainability of new RTAs.
 - b. This committee would also be responsible for giving guidance (structure, format etc.) to prospective or new RTAs, and aiding in various other matters at the discretion of the RTAs member states.
9. Strongly deplures the use of dumping in developing nations and encourages anti-dumping agreements to be implemented between developed and developing nations.
10. Encourages the World Trade Organization to expand its mandate and support a commission for the purposes of arbitrating various grievances and disputes between nations regarding dumping legislation and issues deriving there from.
11. Requests that the World Trade Organization annually evaluate the continuing liberalization of the world markets, recognize the subsequent consequences, and set pragmatic goals based on continual observation to avoid a quixotic globalization agenda.
12. Affirms the need for a degree of transparency within countries seeking economic restructuring by organizations of the international community while recognizing the desire to protect sovereignty, hence proposes that:
 - a. Those countries wishing for assistance from the WTO, UNCTAD, UNDP etc. accept a commission with the purposes of charting economic progress and identifying notable problems so that the concerns of LDCs can be better articulated.
 - b. This commission will consist of independent observers, as well as WTO and domestic authorities to allow the most objective assessment to be formulated.

The Grand Finale

As seen with the sample resolution on the previous page, the final goal or objective of Model United Nations is not complexity or sophistication; rather, it is to provide a sense of direction for action to be taken. The solution should be straightforward yet comprehensive, taking the best of all possible solutions and removing the infeasible and excessively controversial aspects. MUN is all about compromise and creative decision-making. If you ever reach an impasse, remember one easy to follow rule: there is no problem that cannot be negotiated out of. Be sure to stick to your national policy throughout the conference: this is vital to the simulation. While at times this can be challenging, the experience will ultimately be more rewarding if you arrive at a resolution that falls within your country's foreign policy.

Don't feel pressured to sign a resolution or advocate a position that you don't believe is equitable for the world as a whole. Often, delegates have trouble reconciling their nationalistic interests with those of the greater global community. Be sure not to fall into this trap. The United Nations has a mission to make the best decisions for all of humankind, not just for a few countries. Try and speak as much as you can; you have a responsibility to defend your nation's views and ensure that your voice is not disregarded or forgotten.

When the dust clears and a resolution has passed, when the Moderator's gavel hits the podium for the final time, you should leave with a sense of accomplishment. By no means is an MUN conference easy: it requires great deals of time and effort. At the closing ceremonies (held after the last morning session), some delegates will be singled out for outstanding contributions during committee sessions. If you have subscribed to what has been discussed in this manual, and have accurately represented your state's interests then one of these awards may be in the cards. If not, think of the conference as a learning experience. Next time you'll be more confident and ready to deal with the challenges that confront you. At the end of the conference, be proud of yourself. Not only will you have learned the procedures for formal debate and discourse, but you will also have realized the difficult nature of consensus among a diverse international community.

When you arrive home, reflect on what happened during the sessions, and start working on all the schoolwork you missed. Good Luck and bon voyage on your MUN experience.