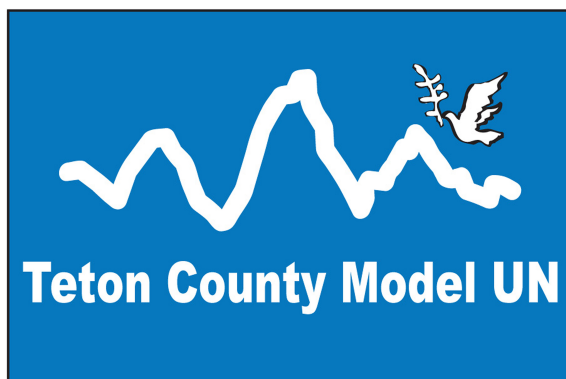


TCMUN PREP SUGGESTIONS



Lesson 6: Public Speaking, Debating and Negotiating

Goal: To prepare students for speaking, debating and negotiating during the conference.

Introduction: Discuss the components of a good speech and other public speaking tips. Write these tips on a whiteboard, offering suggestions when necessary. Ultimately, the list should include these tips:

- **Pace:** Don't speak too quickly or slowly. Don't fill space with unnecessary words like "um," "sort of," "you know," and "like."
- **Participate:** The more a delegate engages during committee sessions, the more confident he or she will feel speaking publicly. They will also have a better time and be more likely to win an award.
- **Power:** Stand or sit in a relaxed but confident manner. Make eye contact with the Chair and fellow delegates to avoid looking at notes.
- **Practice:** Just as delegates should edit one another's position papers, practicing public speaking in front of peers to receive feedback is important.
- **Prepare:** The more comfortable delegates are with the material they are presenting, the more likely they are to be engaging speakers and connect with the audience.
- **Project:** Everyone in the room should be able to hear each speaker.

Content: Being able to communicate effectively and confidently with other delegates is a very important component of Model UN. Using research and position papers as guides, delegates will have to convey their member state's positions on different topics, and ultimately help formulate resolutions.

Delegates will have many opportunities to speak during conference. There are two kinds of debate: formal and informal. However, before understanding the components of these kinds of debate, it is important to understand a few key points:

- Before debate begins, delegates must set a speaking time, which is the allotted amount of time a delegate has to make a speech during committee. Any delegate can propose a speaking time (usually 30 seconds to two minutes) by making a motion.

- A motion is a proposal that a delegate makes to the Chair, requesting that the committee as a whole do something. For example, a delegate can make a motion (move) to go into an unmoderated caucus or to set the speaking time. The Chair will periodically ask if anyone has any motions. Any delegate who would like to propose something may. Then, the entire committee will vote on each motion.
- Procedural matters must be discussed and voted on before going into substantive debate. This order from procedural to substantive matters is called the flow of debate.

Flow of Debate:

- **Roll Call:** At the beginning of each committee session, the Chair will read through every country's name, and the delegates will say "present" or "present and voting." A delegate's decision to simply be "present" indicates that he or she may abstain from voting on a resolution. A delegate's decision to be "present and voting" indicates that he or she cannot abstain from voting on a resolution, and must take a clear affirmative or negative position on all issues regarding the given resolution.
- **Setting the Agenda:** Because each committee will discuss two topics, delegates must decide the order in which these topics should be debated. Delegates can make a motion proposing the order in which the topics should be discussed. The motion(s) will then be voted on, the agenda will be set, and delegates will begin debate on the first topic.
- **Formal Debate:**
 - **Speakers list:** Once a topic order is set, the chair will open debate on the first topic by asking delegates who wish to speak to raise their placards (a piece of paper with the name of the country of each delegate). Chairs will then place those delegates on a speakers list. Rules of the speakers list:
 - A country may only be on the speakers list once.
 - Delegates will always return to the speakers list after caucusing.
 - Delegates can be added to or removed from the speakers list at any time.
 - At the beginning of the committee session, the Chair will go down the speakers list and delegates on it will be able to make opening speeches. This will continue until a delegate makes a motion to move on to a caucus.
 - If the speakers list reaches an end, the committee must move on to voting bloc, irrespective of where they are in the resolution writing process. Thus, it is important for delegates to add themselves to the speakers list in order to prevent this from happening before they are ready to vote.
 - After opening speeches have been made, the speakers list can be utilized to discuss resolutions and the specific positions of different countries.
 - **Opening Speeches:** Although there is no requirement to make an opening speech, delegates wishing to share their country's position on a topic should ask to be added to the speakers list and should make an opening speech. These should essentially be abridged versions of position papers. Delegates should make an opening speech by:
 - Thanking the presiding official: "Thank you Honorable Chair..."

- Providing a brief history of the issue as it relates to their country.
- Explaining how the issue affects their country.
- Providing their country's position on the issue.
- Presenting ideas for a resolution.
- Indicating whether or not their country is willing to negotiate.
- Calling other countries to action, and emphasizing the importance of resolving the issue.

Because many delegates will give opening speeches, they can become repetitive. It is important for delegates to remember to be flexible when speaking in committee; if a point they were planning on stating has already been mentioned, they should amend their speech.

- **Informal Debate:** First, to show students what caucusing will look like, watch [this video](#). Informal debate is any debate that takes place outside of the speakers list. This happens when a delegate motions to go into a moderated or unmoderated caucus. When motioning to enter a caucus, the delegate must also specify the amount of time the committee will spend in caucus before returning to the speaker's list, often about ten to fifteen minutes.
 - **Moderated caucus:** works much like a formal debate without a speakers list. All delegates may raise their placards at any moment, and the chair will call on them one by one to speak for an amount of time. When a delegate motions for this type of caucus, he or she must specify (in addition to stating the total time that will be allotted for the caucus) the duration of each speech or question being asked, and also what the purpose of the caucus is. For example, a delegate might make a motion along these lines: "The Russian Federation motions for a ten minute moderated caucus with thirty second speaking times for the purpose of debating resolutions." Note that the delegate does not use a personal pronoun here; in committee, a delegate is never his or herself; he or she is the delegate from his or her country, and must refer to his or herself as such.
 - **Unmoderated Caucus:** the committee recesses, allowing time for delegates to meet informally and speak amongst themselves. Delegates often use this time to meet with other countries that have similar goals to flesh out their plans and begin writing draft resolutions. It is important for delegates to know who their allies are and what blocs they belong to so that they can effectively participate in unmoderated caucuses.
- **Close of Debate:** When the speakers list is exhausted and no one motions to go into a moderated or unmoderated caucus, or if a delegate motions to go into voting procedure, then it is time to vote on resolutions.
- **Voting Procedures:** Once all resolutions are voted on (more than one resolution can be passed) the committee moves on to the next topic on the agenda, beginning the speakers list (and the rest of the process) over again.

Guide for Discussion: After making opening speeches, delegates begin to discuss the issues and identify which countries are in agreement and want to collaborate. However, it is easy for delegates to get so caught up in debate that they fail to make progress, and instead rehash

disagreements repeatedly. Here is a template that the committee usually follows that will help delegates stay on track and move forward to make resolutions.

1. The Speakers list will be opened and delegates will make their opening speeches. This is the beginning of formal debate. These first speeches should focus on country positions and offer recommendations for future action.
2. After several countries have stated their positions during formal debate, the committee breaks for unmoderated caucuses, often in blocs (or groups that have common goals and interests) to develop positions.
3. After allies and blocs have met during unmoderated caucuses, speeches focus on describing bloc positions to the rest of the committee.
4. After describing and debating different bloc positions, delegates will work together during unmoderated caucuses to compose working papers that will eventually become resolutions.
5. Delegates try to gain support for their working papers by making formal speeches. Students who disagree can respond in their speeches, addressing issues with draft resolutions.
6. During the last couple unmoderated caucuses, draft resolution sponsors (delegates who wrote the resolution) garner support for their draft resolutions and look to incorporate others' ideas. They also submit their drafts to the Chair for approval.
7. The Chair facilitates delegates addressing each other directly. Draft resolutions that have been approved by the Chair will be read aloud to the whole committee. Delegates will debate them and attempt to compromise on differences and amend the resolutions.
8. When all draft resolutions have been read and debated, a delegate can motion to go into voting procedure. Then, all of the draft resolutions that have been approved by the Chair will be voted on.

The Role of Negotiation and Diplomacy: The success of the committee and the delegates' ability to make progress in debate and the writing of draft resolutions depends on students' willingness to negotiate. This is where the role of diplomacy comes into Model UN. In addition to confidence and preparedness, being able to compromise effectively is a skill delegates will gain from Model UN. Some tips for negotiation are:

- **Think before speaking.** Reacting to a disagreement in anger or frustration will make other delegates less likely to work together and come to a resolution.
- **Focus on the facts.** Delegates who use facts and sources that they can back up are less likely to be attacked personally.
- **Use simple language.** This will reduce the possibility of a misunderstanding.
- **Be respectful.** Delegates shouldn't interrupt, raise their voices, or disrespect the Chair.
- **Use diplomatic body language.** Relax any tense parts of the body and avoid gesturing in an aggressive or distracting way.
- **Listen and be open.** This is especially key in resolution writing. When working on draft resolutions, it is unlikely that everyone will agree on the content of the resolution, but its success depends on the support of many delegates. Including all delegates and making sure everyone involved feels heard and represented in the resolution is key.
- **Don't make "I" statements.** Delegates must remember that they are always representing their countries, not their own opinions or points of view. For example, a delegate from Russia should make statements like, "The Russian Federation believes..."

Assessment: Have students break into pairs, or, if with a very large class, into groups of four. Have each pair/group pull a slip out of a hat. Each slip should have a topic that students can “debate”. Some ideas include:

- Summer vs. Winter
- Harry Potter vs. Twilight
- Homework should be banned vs. Should not be banned
- Driving age should be 18 vs. Driving age should be 16
- Coke vs. Pepsi

Each person in the pair or group must decide which side of the debate they want to be on, regardless of whether the position they represent is actually their opinion. Students should be allowed a few minutes to write down some talking points to defend their position. Then, depending on the size of the class, students should present their opposing arguments as opening speeches either in front of the whole class or in their pairs or small groups. Above, in the lesson plan, there is a detailed description of how to make an opening speech from the point of view of a country. Below, is an amended way of making an opening speech, but from the point of view of the student rather than a country:

- Thank the presiding official (although not actually there): “Thank you Honorable Chair...”
- Provide a brief history of the issue as it relates to the student’s life.
- Explain how the issue affects the student.
- Student’s position on the issue.
- Explain how the two opposing viewpoints can complement each other to achieve a future goal, after highlighting his/her preferred approach.
- Calling the other student/s to action, and emphasizing the importance of resolving the issue.

Each student should do his or her mock opening speech, and then provide each other feedback on public speaking skills (i.e. eye contact, body language, taking debate seriously, etc.) and discuss ideas for improvement.

Works Cited:

“Caucusing.” Global Classrooms. April 2012. UNAUSA. July 30, 2012.

“Preparation Guide.” Model United Nations. October 14, 2008. Richland College. July 30, 2012.