



AMIMUN'22

AMITY INTERNATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS



PERSEVERANTIA OMNIA VINCIT



**22ND - 23RD
JANUARY
2022**

RESEARCH-PREPARATION GUIDE

Table of Contents

Introduction	3
Research Tips.....	4
1. Basics.....	4
2. Committee: Powers and Mandate	4
3. Allotment.....	5
4. Breaking down the Agenda	6
5. Identifying Controversies in the Agenda	6
6. Proper Sources for Research	7
7. Organizing your Research.....	8
Speech Drafting.....	9
1. Relevance	9
2. Structure	9
3. Debate	10
4. Guidance of Debate	11
Other Types of Debate	12
1. Lobbying	12
2. Documentation	12
3. Chits	13

Research Tips

1. Basics

The first thing you do is either create an electronic document (Word/ OneNote/ Pages/Etc.) or take a notepad and write down the following three things:

- a. Committee
- b. Agenda
- b. Allotment

This is the absolute bare minimum you must know. Knowing here means having a basic idea of what each of these are. These three will shape and filter your research at multiple stages, which you will understand when you start researching.

2. Committee: Powers and Mandate

Every United Nations body has its own webpage which offers a plethora of information about the body. The most important of all is the mandate of the body, which specifies what all is covered by the body and what all it can do. Further sometimes there are individual powers granted to body.

All of this can be viewed on the webpage or in the resolution that created the body.

The reason why this is important is to ensure relevance and rule out a situation where a member might suggest something which is not covered by the mandate. Not only will this enhance your knowledge of functioning of the UN but further help add an important filter of relevance when you are researching for solutions.

3. Allotment

A thumb rule in every conference is that you are not representing yourself, but someone else. This essentially creates the idea of role play, putting yourself in someone else's shoes and acting like them. This must not be taken literally and there has to be a decorum factor to the same. However, in order to do good role-play, you must familiarize yourself with the role you are about to play. In the case of conventional committees, these are diplomats of countries. Here, you must research basically about this allotted country, where is it located, how developed it is and what major problems it faces. This must not be done in extreme detail unless required by the agenda. After understanding and noting the basic facts of the country you move ahead and look into its foreign policy. This policy is extremely complicated and not easy to figure out in some cases but it's essential to gather a basic idea of the same.

Example: Israel is not recognized by Saudi Arabia. This is the foreign policy of Saudi Arabia.

Foreign policy is also essential to determine who are your allies, that is countries you support and can take collective steps with. Allies can be determined via international coalitions and organizations.

Example: USA is a part of North Atlantic Treaty Organization, and enjoyed the support of UK and France during the 1999 Yugoslavia Bombings by the NATO.

All of this can be obtained from a basic search on the internet.

Hence while providing solutions, you can then abide by your foreign policy and take collective steps with your allies as bilateral or organizational effort.

4. Breaking down the Agenda

In most of the cases where an Agenda is given to you, it will not be possible to collectively discuss everything. Thus, the agenda is broken down into further sub-topics and discussed to ensure thorough debate. This procedurally is called Moderated Caucus (Explained in Procedural Guide).

A simple tip for basic research then becomes to chalk out possible sub-topics that the agenda can have for Moderated Caucus discussion. Then research on what the international and your allotment's stance is on this sub-topic. Always while chalking out sub-topics you must think from a general perspective and imagine what others may also come up with and research heavily on common sub-topics. This is to ensure you can gather like-minded people who have also come up with the same sub-topic easily, since you need to lobby to get your Moderated Caucus motion passed. This aspect of lobbying will be discussed more in the following sections.

5. Identifying Controversies in the Agenda

Now there always has to be a pressing reason why an Agenda has been chosen. It may represent a growing problem or an issue of debate with multiple stance on the same. So, when we look at an Agenda like "Situation in North Korea" you will have USA taking one stance, India another and maybe China a totally different one from the two. Such points of discussion which invite different stances are said to be controversies. In most controversies, we see multiple countries supporting each stance, which is usually based on their foreign policy. While breaking down the Agenda, you may come across such controversies and it becomes absolutely essential to

be well researched on the same. These are mostly incidental and are based on the actions of certain countries along with its consequences. It is hence while discussing controversies do we come across “allegations” where one country alleges another of doing something wrong. Here it becomes important to note that one must always have proper sources of information before the set out an allegation against another country.

6. Proper Sources for Research

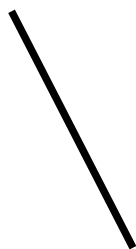
Wikipedia has an option for editing articles and given the million plus existing articles and pages currently on the website, fact checking is comparatively slow. Further you can create pages and articles too once you have edited around 10,000 words. Due to this reason Wikipedia is not considered to be a genuine source for information and proof for allegations. It is however recommended that you refer to the citations that Wikipedia has in its pages as they are highly informative and more reliable. These citations generally include research papers and articles from reputed journals. You can however always refer to this website to get your basics right, but please do not refer to it for proof. The supreme authority of proof are UN reports. These are easily available and comprehensive in nature, providing detailed facts as well as well thought recommendations.

Apart from this, multiple conferences consider Reuters as a genuine authority on facts. This is the only news agency which is believed to be non-biased. Please do note that certain countries do not accept Reuters reports in many cases, and you must know whether your country is one of these exceptions.

Rest all news agencies are not accepted as credible proofs for allegations but can be used for general research purposes.

7. Organizing your Research

Always create a folder on your device and store all your research. Renaming documents is also a good habit to remember the contents of the same. While most people prefer electronic means of recording, I always suggest having a notebook or physically taking a note of all the important documents that you have. Use the filter of relevance and a rating system to identify which documents are important and which are not. But rather than saving hundreds of documents, understand the contents instead and generate clear opinions that mirror your foreign policy. Take printouts, highlight relevant portions and use sticky notes to organize your documents. All of these will help you extremely and most importantly calm you down when the nervousness sets in before the commencement of the committee.



Speech Drafting

It is important to note that the contents of this section will not make you an excellent drafter, that is something that will happen with experience. The purpose of this section is to set a foundation and perhaps help you understand the basics.

1. Relevance

The most important factor in drafting the speech is making it relevant. Most of the delegates in pursuance of setting out a fabulous point forget that it is not the correct time to express the same. The biggest factor in determining relevance is the topic of discussion. This in most cases is the topic of the Moderated Caucus. **Always ensure that the contents of your speech are relevant to the topic at hand.**

2. Structure

Always have a flow in your mind that will help you channelize your points well. A flow is established when your points are relevant to each other. This can be in multiple ways. The first is one deliberating on the other, meaning that after you express one point the next one will further elaborate on it. Then there can be sequential reasoning. For example, you are defining a problem, you state the reasons for the problem in a sequence and while stating the reasons you provide an argument as to why you think this is a reason. In this type of a flow it is always essential to maintain the sequence.

Hence before starting a speech, mention the amount of points you have. Example: “Thank you Chairperson. The Delegate wishes to present 4 points on the current topic of discussion.” This will help you present your arguments in a clear manner and notify the Executive Board of the same.

Always ensure that in the case of elaborations, you do not end up giving more weightage. In case you feel that one point is important than the other, prioritize it and send the rest via chits.

With respect to presenting your points, use your vocal skills to emphasize well. Make note of your main argument and try as much as you can to provide a strong factual basis for your point. Thus, you start by giving certain facts and then presenting your argument, or vice versa, whichever you think suits your style of speaking the best.

Please ensure while deliberating on your argument you do not get carried away and lose relevance.

3. Debate

Apart from including your own points, listen to other delegates and try to take a note of what they are saying. Look for their opinions and arguments, in case you feel they are similar to yours and you can provide a further elaboration on it, present it in your speech as a point. Example: “As stated by Delegate of X, the delegate of Y would further like to elaborate on the same”.

It further becomes a debate when you come across an argument by another delegate while listening to them which is opposite to yours. You then pick up on that argument and prove it to be wrong. This

must be done in a logical manner and by giving sound reasoning. In most cases a sound reasoning can be achieved by looking at facts. However, many delegates can end up having logical errors in their arguments, which you must point out in case they are contrary to your points. This must take priority over all your other points and must be expressed first in your speech. This is because MUNs are essentially a debating competition, hence points of debate take precedence.

4. **Guidance of Debate**

While all the tips given above count as guidance of debate, another method of guiding debate is by asking delegates to answer certain questions in their speech. These must be general questions relevant to the topic at hand and are generally debatable. They are a good way of bringing controversies that you may have come across during research for discussion. This can be done either at the end of the entire speech or at the end of every point.

You can on the other hand frame a question at the beginning of your speech and then structure your points as an answer to the question. This in itself boosts the clarity in seeing relevance of your content and guiding overall debate.

(It is once again important to reiterate that there can be other forms of drafting speeches as well, these are not conclusive points. Feel free to experiment with different forms however always ensure two things are present in your form of drafting:

Relevance and Clarity)

Other Types of Debate

1. Lobbying

This is an essential forum, as all committees (in maximum cases) follow democracy, and to take an action (either procedural or substantive) you need majority support. While the exact number may differ, the fact still is you need to work with other delegates. The activity of interacting with other delegates in this setup is called lobbying.

One must always ensure proper conduct and body language while interacting with someone else, because in the end lobbying is basically a conversation with someone else. Like any other conversation, there must be an icebreaking, an effort to seek common objectives and lastly strive for collective action. Lobbying in a MUN format mostly deals with gathering votes. These votes are for mostly procedural motions. You must be friendly and forthcoming in order to get people to listen to you. Hence tactics like shouting, climbing on chairs or tables and cutting people off might get you attention but will not help you get support. Here again, relevance will be your strongest tool. If you are saying something which makes sense and people can actually agree upon, you get their support.

Lobbying is another tool which will portray its important nature to you over time and experience.

2. Documentation

Everything boils down to this type of debate. How do we solve the question each agenda raises? The answer is through documentation. Every action that you take can only be done through documentation. These are of many

types and you have an option at every conference to seek clarifications regarding what these types are. They may vary based on which set of Rules and Procedure are being followed and the Executive Board Members.

Documentation is the key factor in deciding who wins in a conference. It requires a proper culmination of all your research, lobbying and debate into one/multiple document/s which will represent the two/three days you would have spent in a conference.

Do not ever take documentation lightly for it is an absolute experience in itself and is the most crucial aspect of committee proceedings.

3. Chits

These are extremely valuable in all committees with a 30+ member strength. They will help you in communicating both with delegates as well as the executive board. Chits can be used for further elaborating your points with and sending in new points during moderated caucuses or formal debate. But they are extremely crucial for one particular task, that is, asking questions to other delegates. Apart from this, chits can be an effective tool for lobbying. Sending 10 chits to 10 delegates asking for their support for a particular motion can help you save up to 8-10 minutes during unmoderated caucuses. This time saved can help you gather more votes as such caucuses have a time limit that gets achieved extremely quickly, because lobbying is a lengthy task. Hence, please use chits and interact with other delegates as much as you can.