



Model United Nations

Six Steps for Effective Country Research and Representation

Step 1. Understand Your Committee/Organization

Identifying the committee or organization where the simulation is based helps to determine the context of the discussion. In Model United Nations, conference organizers provide a Background Guide. Even with the background guide, this research is usually only a beginning in terms of exploring the history and background of the topics.

Step 2. Research the Assigned Policy Issues

As you begin to explore the foreign policy positions of your assigned country, you must also become familiar with the international issue. First aim to understand the issues—the debate among experts, definitions, and key concepts. Then work toward developing an understanding of policy solutions that can be supported by your country and others.

Step 3. Research Country-Specific Information

You will play the country role more effectively as you delve into its unique features, policies, history, and culture. Also be sure to understand other aspects like GDP, population, and government structure.

Step 4. Review Speeches, Press Releases, and other Policy Indicators

Speeches and statements in discussions in meetings of the principal organs of the United Nations (General Assembly, Economic and Social Council, Security Council, Trusteeship Council)--and their subsidiary standing and ad hoc committees-- are key sources for establishing the international policy position of UN member nations.

Step 5. Study Resolutions Sponsored by your Country

Model UN participants are interested in resolutions and draft resolutions for several reasons. First, these documents serve as examples for writing their own resolutions in terms of form. But participants are also interested in the content of the resolutions that their own country has participated in sponsoring.

Step 6. Develop an Understanding of the Country's Voting Pattern

Understanding the voting pattern for a nation in particular issue areas at the United Nations is very beneficial. This helps you understand how a country acts toward various policy and gives you an idea

Remember that each research step helps you build toward a more complete understanding of your country. You cannot know everything, nor will you even become an expert. However, your goal is to be proficient in the most important issues relating to your country and to understand the connections between your committee, policy interests, and country priorities.