



Model UN Masterclass 2/4 - Preparing for Your MUN Conference



Introduction

Welcome to the second masterclass lesson on how to best prepare for your next MUN conference. Preparation for MUN involves two main focuses: 1. **understanding the issue** at hand and 2. **knowing your country's position** within the debate.

Understanding the Issue

Study Guide

The first step in preparing for your conference is to thoroughly **read the study guide** provided by the organizers. This document outlines the topics you will discuss and often includes questions that your resolution must answer. The most important aspect to get from the study guide is the **scope**—what is included in the topic and what is not.

Additional Research

While the study guide is essential, it is not sufficient on its own. Broaden your research by:

1. **Using the Sources in the Study Guide:** Often, the study guide will include sources in the footnotes or references. These are great starting points.
2. **Googling the Issue:** Use search engines to find more information. Wikipedia can be a good starting point for understanding the problem, but make sure to check the sources at the bottom of Wikipedia pages for more reliable information.
3. **Exploring News Summaries and Timelines:** Look for summaries of the issue from sources like BBC timelines or documentaries. Be aware of biases and try to get different perspectives.
4. **Getting Creative with Research:** Reach out to experts or organizations related to the topic, such as climate activists for climate change discussions.

UN Documents and Resolutions

In-depth research on UN documents and resolutions is crucial:



1. **UN Security Council Resolutions:** For example, if you are debating the situation in Libya, start by looking at recent and relevant resolutions. These documents often refer to previous resolutions and provide a comprehensive view of the issue.
2. **Reading Preambulatory and Operative Clauses:** Preambulatory clauses provide background and references to other documents, while operative clauses outline actions to be taken.

Knowing Your Country's Position

Researching Your Country 🌐

1. **Friends and Regional Research:** Reach out to people from your country or region. Google explicitly for your country's position on the issue.
2. **Neighboring Countries and Regional Bodies:** If your country does not have a clear stance, look at the positions of neighboring countries or regional bodies like the EU or ASEAN.
3. **CIA World Factbook:** This resource provides summaries for each country, which can be very useful.
4. **Official Government and UN Websites:** Look for statements from your country's ambassadors or foreign ministers on the issue.

Major Allies' Positions 🤝🌐

Identify your country's major allies and their positions on the issue. This can be done by:

1. **Trade and Economic Data:** The CIA World Factbook includes details on trade relationships.
2. **Regional and International Alliances:** Consider alliances such as NATO, ASEAN, or the European Union.
3. **Statements and Press Releases:** Look for press releases from the UN that include statements from other countries' representatives.

Final Tips 🎯

1. **Flexibility:** If you cannot precisely nail down your country's policy, have a general idea of what is important and relevant. Engage in the debate even if the issue does not directly concern your country.
2. **Role-Playing:** If your country has only a minor role, you can still participate by playing a mediating role or supporting allies.
3. **Ask for Help:** If in doubt, ask your chairs for guidance as they are familiar with the issue and different countries' positions.



Remember, MUN is about learning and engaging in diplomatic discussions. Don't worry about being perfect; focus on participating and improving your skills. See you in the next lesson! 🚀