



TWENTY MUN TERMS YOU SHOULD LEARN

GENERAL TERMS:

The Chair: The chair or chairs are seated in the front with their gavel and facilitate the debate. They call on speakers, time speeches, and maintain the rules of procedure. They will also evaluate your performance for the conference awards.

Decorum: order in committee. The chair may call decorum if delegates are loud or disrespectful, to ask for their attention during committee.

Delegate: A delegate is a person sent to a conference to represent a group of people or a country. In Model UN participants are referred to as delegates since they each represent a different country and their government.

Motion: a specific action made by delegates to direct debate in a certain direction.

Placard: this is the large name card that the delegate usually has so the chair can easily read their name and call on them.

Speaker's List: a list that contains the order of speakers in the committee. The specific way that the order is determined varies by conference. The Speaker's List is the default format of debate and the committee will proceed with speeches until a delegate makes a motion to change up the debate format.

Yield: this is when a speaker decides to give up the remaining time in his or her speech.

POINTS THAT CAN BE RAISED:

Point of Inquiry: when a delegate has a question about something that is not understood in committee they raise their placard and ask a Point of Inquiry.

Point of Order (also called Point of Parliamentary Procedure): when a delegate believes that the chair made a mistake regarding the rules of procedure and they raise their placard to make a point of order.

Point of Personal Privilege: when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in committee they raise their placard and ask a Point of Personal Privilege. Examples: temperature of room, distractions during committee, can't hear another delegate, etc.



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CAUCUS TERMS:

Blocs: different groups that have similar ideas and opinions about the topics. In the real United Nations, there are regional blocs, but delegates can choose to build their own blocs in Model UN based on having a similar country policy and solutions to address the problem. These blocs will typically work together to create a draft resolution.

Moderated Caucus: A debate format that allows delegates to make short comments on a specific sub-issue. Typically, delegates who are interested in speaking will raise up their placards and the Chairs will call on delegates to speak one at a time. In order to move into a moderated caucus, the motion must include the overall speaking time, the time per speaker, and the sub-issue to be discussed. Example motion: Italy moves for a 5 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking time per delegate for the purpose of discussing renewable energy.

Unmoderated Caucus: a debate format where delegates move around and talk freely and informally. This is usually when delegates find allies and work on draft resolutions. Example motion: Senegal moves for an unmoderated caucus for 10 minutes.

RESOLUTION WRITING TERMS:

Draft Resolution: A document written in resolution format, approved by the chairs, and introduced to committee but not yet voted upon is called a draft resolution. Delegates will be spending most of their time writing and amending the draft resolutions. Once a draft resolution is passed by a committee, then it becomes a Resolution.

Resolution: The goal of the committee is to pass a resolution. A resolution is a document that outlines the problems and past international actions associated with a topic and most importantly it includes solutions to solve the global issue.

Signatories: delegates who wish to see the draft resolution debated but may or may not agree with all of the ideas. However, they think there is some merit to it and want to see it presented.

Sponsors: delegates who authored the draft resolution or actively contributed ideas. They support the draft resolution and want to see it get passed, so they should vote for it.

Working paper: Working papers are just a list of ideas formed by the blocs. They may or may not be written in resolution format. The working paper needs to be approved by the chairs.



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Pre-ambulatory clauses: statements in the first section of the draft resolution that describes the problems that the committee wants to solve as well as previous measures taken to combat the problem. Pre-ambulatory clauses are usually italicized or underlined by not numbered.

Operative clauses: statements in the second section of the draft resolution that outlines the solutions the sponsors wish to implement. Operative clauses are usually numbered and underlined.