



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



Guidelines on Doing Research and Giving Effective Speeches

Please take note of the following terminologies before reading the guide:

- 1) States: All of the UN Member States (All of the nations).
- 2) International Law: Like people in a country are governed by domestic law, States are governed by set of rules under umbrella of International Law. Every state is not obliged to follow each and every norm of International Law. Under prescribed procedure, States are required to ratify (give their confirmation) any component of international law before; if they want to follow it. States have choice whether to make international law binding on them or not. Any state that hasn't ratified can't be expected to follow that component of international law. This is very important and must be kept in mind while researching. International law has various components like treaties, directives, declarations and conventions to name a few. All of these are more or less similar in nature. In easy language, these can be understood as texts that are of legal nature and which are expected to be followed by States which have ratified them.



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



In a committee, anything and everything you can rely on is your research material. A good research will help you deliver effective speeches, send worthy chits to EB, in defending allegations or even in alleging other States.

Following must be kept in mind while researching:

- i) First and foremost read the background guide of your committee. This will help you understand the dynamics and meaning of the agenda. Since the BG is written by the EB, reading it will help you in listing the important sub-topics within the agenda, especially those which the EB expects you to discuss.
- ii) Secondly, know your committee. Every committee has a different mandate. Mandate of a committee is the broad set of topics that **only** can be discussed in your committee. A committee can't discuss everything. Eg- A Human Rights Council can't discuss about Nuclear weapons since this issue is related to security and not human rights. Anything you speak that doesn't have content related to the mandate of your committee is usually marked down by the EB. It is not so easy to understand the mandate. These are always vague and open-ended. In the above example, the HRC can discuss human rights violations because of nuclear weapons, but not the general case of those weapons. Knowing the mandate will help



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



you shortlist relevant and important topics which must be researched.

iii) Thirdly, you must know each and everything about your country. In an MUN, you don't speak what you feel or believe but what your State does. Your country is not like others and in practice, on any agenda certain countries favor the positive aspects of an agenda to be discussed and are **pro agenda**; others are anti-agenda which have a different stance. You must be clear about your nation's stand and your **foreign policy**. Foreign policy of any nation is a doctrine that determines a nation's treatment of other countries. Every country has allies and enemies. Eg- USA is an ally of most of the European States but is hostile to Russia. So in your committee, it would generally happen that both of them won't get along with each other. They may even criticize each other for their past-practices on the agenda. The allies are expected to form a collaborative **lobby**, listing the solutions they want the whole world to implement. You must only research what is in accordance with your nation's foreign policy. Your research must also include countering points for nations that are against your State. What this means is that your research must include points that you can use to defend yourself and simultaneously prove your enemy state's practices as wrong. Also keep in mind



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



that you can't go against your own foreign policy. In a committee, you can't also change your stance every other time. Whatever you speak is recorded by the EB, and you can't then speak anything that will contradict your previously spoken statement.

Keeping all this in mind, first divide your agenda into following broad parameters:

- 1) Current problems: These are problems related with agenda, implementation of solutions regarding that agenda, the States causing problems, and all other issues.
- 2) The portion of world and people affected because of problems associated with the agenda.
- 3) The factors which are worsening the situation or can worsen the same in near future.
- 4) Problems caused because of non-implementation of current International law.
- 5) The problems associated with implementation of any previously decided measures (which have been decided by real



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



diplomats in UN).

6) The source and origin of problems (how they came in first place).

7) Solutions: only those which are in accordance with your State's foreign policies, any modifications you propose (or your State propose) in current International law, and any solution which is within the mandate of your committee.

Your research must include ample of content on at least these parameters. But you shouldn't limit yourself to these only and research on anything that you consider as important to be discussed in your committee.

Tips:

I) Save as many links and pages as possible. These will serve as proves. But take down notes of only stuff which you will speak in the committee.

II) As far as size of notes is concerned, jot enough content so you can deliver at least thirty one-minute speeches. Though, in any MUN you wont get a chance to give thirty speeches; extra



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



content will help you writing chits.

III) Your research must be composed of three aspects:

III.1) Facts: These include everything that is well accepted and has happened till now, various international court judgments and rulings [of International Criminal Court (ICC) and International Court of Justice (ICJ)], existing international laws, treaties, conventions, articles, directives, customary international law etc. Speaking and quoting these in your speeches and chits will impress both: the EB and the committee and will make you stand above rest. Following example demonstrates this: Everyone knows that Right to Life is basic necessity but while delivering speech, if you will quote that “Right to Life for all citizens must be ensured by UN Member States under the obligations laid down by Article 4 of International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) and in Universal Declaration on Human Rights(UDHR)” will make your speech factual and impressive. Both statements mean the same but then, presentation matters in an MUN.

III.2) Substance: Briefings and technical aspects of the agenda makes what is generally called substance. Like facts, these make the speech impressive. You must have content on all



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



aforementioned parameters to make your speeches more substantive.

III.3) Analysis: The most important aspect of all. “Why this happened? What will happen next? What will be its implication? How this problem can be prevented? Why is something wrong and what makes something right?” are the questions your research must answer. Focusing on this part will help you in giving responses to Point of Information(s) along with giving effective conclusions to your speeches. This aspect requires **thinking and opinion formation** from your end more, than just copying things directly from internet.

IV) All of your speeches must be structured in a manner so that they roughly include 30% substance, 30% facts and 40% analysis.

V) Try to not speak anything similar or quote facts that had previously been said by anyone else in your committee repeatedly.

VI) You must be confident on your research and must only use reliable sources while quoting facts.



HILLWOODS ACADEMY

MUN Society



VII) Sources to be considered for researching:

- i) For finding about your Foreign policy- Download this app:
<https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.modelun&hl=en>
- ii) Following are sources that are considered reliable in MUNs:
 - ii.1) Your official state media reports: (Please note that TOI, Hindustan times etc. aren't official)
 - ii.2) Your State Government reports.
 - ii.3) UN Reports and Resolutions.
 - ii.4) International Conventions, Treaties, International Court Cases and rulings.
 - ii.5) Reuters News Agency's reports.
- iii) For substantive research, refer the following sources:
Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch reports, various scholars' articles, Wikipedia, Regional Agencies' reports (Eg: European Union, BRICS, African Union, Organisation of American States etc.), real and especially your state's Diplomats' speeches.
- iv) Start researching at least 10-12 days prior to conference.