

WorldMUN Guide to Delegate Preparation

Delegate preparation is essential for WorldMUN's success. To derive maximum benefit from the conference, each delegate should have an in-depth understanding of the UN, their committee, the topic areas, their assigned nation's position on the problems posed by the topic areas, and their country's broad interests. However, delegates must remember that solutions to international problems require flexibility and compromise. Therefore, while delegates must be cautious not to stray from their nation's positions, they must strive to think creatively and cooperatively within that framework, in order to come up with effective solutions.

Rules of Procedure Preparation

For Model UN beginners, we encourage you to give our [rules of procedure](#) (or RoP) a thorough read. While they may seem daunting and confusing, don't worry; they will make a lot more sense once your committee gets going. Nevertheless, it's helpful to a broad familiarity with what different motions are and how committee is organized before heading in. If you are an experienced Model UN-er, we still encourage you to give the rules of procedure a glance over since RoP varies from country to country and continent to continent.

Substantive Preparation

Approximately one month before conference begins, Study Guides for all committees will be sent out to delegates. These Guides provide the baseline information about your committee's topic(s) and guidance from your Chair on how their committee will run. By the end of reading the Study Guide, you will be able to participate in basic level, informed discussion of the issues at hand in your committee.

In order to be an exceptional delegate, it is imperative to do further research beyond the Study Guide. Look at works suggested by your Chair or cited in the Endnotes section of the Study Guide. Track down reports from the UN, NGO's, or other reputable sources on your topic or subtopics that will be discussed in your committee. This supplementary research will give you a

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greater depth of knowledge and access to perspectives that might be omitted or differ from those contained within the Study Guide.

Finally, it is crucially important to conduct research about your country or position's stance in regard to your committee's topic. In many cases, your country may have taken an explicit stance on the issue at hand exhibited in official statements or actions. In other cases, you may have to infer what your country's position is based on its votes on UN resolutions on the issue or similar issues, its stated stance on similar issues that are linked to the committee's topic, its close allies' stance the topic, or other relevant factors. Do not fret too much if you cannot determine what your country's view on your committee's topic is; your Chair will not be intimately familiar with every country's exact views, but will expect you to faithfully represent the interests of your assigned country to the best of your ability.

Position Papers

Position papers are the sole pre-conference assignment for delegates, and serve as a useful means of preparing yourself for conference. Position papers should be written double-spaced, in 12-point font, and 2-4 pages in length. Your position paper should address three primary concerns:

- The topic: restate the topic in your own words and identify the pressing issues that the committee must address.
- Your stance: give your country's position on the issue at hand. If you are inferring your country's view based on some of the factor's listed above, cite how your position is consistent with those factors.
- The solutions: propose some solutions that you would like to see discussed during committee. Superior papers will weigh the pros, cons, and limitations of different solutions to the committee topic.

When writing your position paper, do not use the first person pronouns "I, we, etc." Instead, use "The Delegation of ..." when expressing your country's position and opinions.

Skills Preparation

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Every delegate at WorldMUN comes with certain strengths and weaknesses. Some are masterful orators while others are terrified by public speaking. Some are able to rally groups of delegates behind their leadership, while others struggle to get others to buy in to their perspective. Some are exquisite writers capable of drafting resolutions worthy of the UN, while others might struggle to write eloquently or be less familiar with the English language.

There are certainly ways to improve your skills in regard to the above. Practice speaking in front of small group to make your speeches more effective. Apply lessons from your personal life—how you convince your friends to do a certain activity or persuade your parents to allow you to do something—to enhance your persuasive abilities. Read actual UN resolutions to familiarize yourself with the appropriate writing style of international legislation.

But more importantly than any of those ‘hard skills’ is the value at the heart of WorldMUN: diplomacy. No matter what type of delegate you are, all WorldMUN participants have the capacity to be an effective diplomat—to form relationships with others, to conduct themselves with dignity and civility, to think critically and engage with others from diverse backgrounds on how to address the most pressing global issues of our time. Even if you do not feel confident about your ability to speak, lead, or write, your capacity to conduct yourself like a diplomat and to work hand-in-hand with your fellow delegates is all you need in order to be a superior delegate at WorldMUN.