



MINNESOTA YMCA

YOUTH IN GOVERNMENT

MODEL UNITED NATIONS FAQ

Rev 3/16

FIRST OFF, WHAT ARE ALL OF THESE WORDS YOU'RE USING?

YIG: Youth in Government

MUN: Model United Nations

GA: General Assembly

HRC: Human Rights Council

ICJ: International Court of Justice

ECOSOC: The Economic and Social Council

CRC: Conference Resource Center

ParliPro: Parliamentary Procedure

Organs: The different parts of the UN (GA, ECOSOC, ICJ, HRC)

WHAT SHOULD I CALL MYSELF?

Whenever you are speaking in front of your committee or council, avoid the use of pronouns like "I", "me", "he", or "she". Instead refer to yourself and other delegates by their country. For instance, if you're representing the United States, say, "The United States believes that...", rather than, "I believe that..." If referencing someone else, say, "In reference to a previous speaker..." or "As the delegate from the People's Republic of China stated..." Just remember, you aren't representing you. You are representing your country.

WHAT IS PARLIPRO?

ParliPro is short for "Parliamentary Procedure." It is the format of debate that MUN will follow in all organs of the UN except for the ICJ. It allows for measured, peaceful debate where all countries have an equal opportunity to talk (if they want to).

HOW DOES DEBATE WORK?

The core of the debate at MUN will be the speaker's list. At the beginning of debate, the Chair will "open" the speaker's list. At this point, if you want to speak, raise your placard in the air. The Chair will then call out countries while the Secretariat (or Vice Chair) writes down the names on a large board at the front of the room. Once your name is called, put your placard down. After a sufficient number of countries have been written down, the Chair will "close" the speaker's list. The Chair will now call up the countries on the list, in order, to the podium to speak on the issue. Once all the countries on the list have spoken, the speaker's list will be "opened" again, and the whole process will repeat itself.

WHAT IS THE END GOAL OF THE CONFERENCE?

The end goal of your committee is to create a resolution that addresses your assigned topic and proposes a position or plan of action the committee has on it.

If you are in a GA committee, after the resolution is passed in your committee, it moves onto debate in the GA as a whole. After the GA convenes and debates the committee resolution, the resolution must pass with a majority vote in the GA. Finally, it is signed by the Secretary-General to finish the process and everyone claps to celebrate. (Note: Do not clap when a resolution fails to pass.)



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WHAT IS CAUCUSING?

If there is a caucus during committee time, there is a break from the formalities of ParliPro debate. Delegates can talk to delegates from other countries informally at this time and try to sort out what they think should happen. This is the best time to write working papers or resolutions on the topic since multiple delegates can work together and discuss what they want freely.

Do not abuse caucus time. Some people use it as free time to chat and mess around, but caucus time is potentially the most beneficial time to make progress on a resolution if you stay focused.

WHAT IS A WORKING PAPER, AND WHAT IS A RESOLUTION?

A working paper is a basic overview of what the author wants to be in a resolution. It doesn't need the formal language of a resolution, and just has to lay out the basic opinion. Think of it like your rough draft of your intro paragraph to an essay for school. It is not voted upon, cannot be amended, and debate on it will simply end when someone motions to end debate on the working paper.

Resolutions are the final, more formal version of a working paper that use the formal language and are intended to be the final product. Resolutions can be amended, but it is advised to do the majority of editing on a resolution during caucus time. Once debate on the resolution ends, it is voted upon by the committee/council. Refer to the MUN Study Guide for information on how to write a resolution and look at the sample resolution on there. You can view the Study Guide online at the [YIG Website](#).

WHAT IS A MOTION?

A motion is any request made by a delegate to do anything that affects the proceedings of debate. This includes voting on a resolution/amendment, caucusing, recessing, tabling a resolution/topic, etc. If a motion is made and the chair recognizes the motion, there must be another delegate who seconds the motion. If there is a second, there will be a verbal vote of "aye/nay" on whether or not the motion will be carried out.

Commonly used motions at the beginnings and ends of committee meetings (other motions are explained further in the next section):

- Motion to suspend roll call
 - Requesting that we skip taking the roll call of countries
 - This request will not be recognized during the first meeting of the committee, but you can use this motion at the beginning of later committee meetings
- Motion to adjourn
 - Requesting that the committee meeting be adjourned



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DO I NEED TO SAY SPECIAL WORDS OR PHRASES WHEN I SPEAK IN FRONT OF MY COMMITTEE?

Here's a "brief" overview of the most important/commonly used phrases:

- When you finish speaking in front of committee and wish to return to your seat:
 - "I yield my time to the Chair"
 - Make sure not to say "I rest my case." It's a common mix-up.
- When you wish to ask another country's delegate a question:
 - "Will the delegate from (insert country name) yield to a question?"
 - To ask multiple questions change to "...yield to a series of questions?"
- When you wish to ask the author of a working paper/resolution/amendment a question:
 - "Will the author of the working paper/resolution/amendment yield to a question?"
 - To ask multiple questions change to "...yield to a series of questions?"
- When you want time to caucus:
 - "Motion to caucus for _____minutes."
 - Try not to call for this too often if caucus time is unproductive
- When you want to vote on a resolution or amendment:
 - "Motion to end debate and vote on the resolution/amendment."
- When the current time slot to debate has elapsed and it's time for lunch or dinner:
 - "Motion to recess/adjourn."
- When you want to stop debating your current resolution/topic, but still return to the resolution/topic later:
 - "Motion to table the resolution/topic."
- When you want to end debate on the current resolution/topic permanently:
 - "Motion to end debate."
- When you want to discuss your working paper/resolution/amendment:
 - "I move my working paper/resolution/amendment."
 - You must have written out the working paper/resolution/amendment and put it on the desk of the Chair for this motion to be recognized.