mymun

Model UN Masterclass 1/4 - How to Model United Nations! 🤔 🇺🇳 🚀

Introduction

Welcome to this masterclass on **Model United Nations!** This series will address many common questions, such as how to prepare for your first speech and your first committee. We'll cover everything in a series of four (4) videos:

1. **How does MUN work?** - A detailed rundown of committee procedures.
2. **Preparation before the conference** - Research and preparation tips.
3. **Conference happenings** - Winning awards and understanding documents.
4. **Documents and Voting** - In-depth look at necessary documents and voting procedures.

Remember, MUN is a game. 🧩 Don't worry if you don't understand something immediately. We're here to help you navigate through it. Let's dive into the first video: what MUN actually is and how it works.

What is Model United Nations? 🇺🇳

Model United Nations (MUN) is about simulating the United Nations. You will simulate bodies such as the **Security Council, General Assembly, or Economic and Social Council,** and debate exciting issues the world faces today. To make this work, you need a set of rules called the **rules of procedure**, which can vary between conferences. These rules help maintain order and ensure productive debate.

Phases of a Committee Session

Let's go through the different phases of a committee session:

1. **Roll Call** - To see who is present.
2. **Setting the Agenda** - Deciding the topics of debate.
3. **General Speakers List** - Core element of the debate.
4. **Delivering Great Speeches** - Tips for effective speaking.
5. **Motions** - Formal requests to change the flow of debate.
6. **Documents** - Papers and resolutions you need to be familiar with.
7. **Voting** - Finalizing decisions on resolutions.

mymun

Roll Call 👥

The roll call is the first step in a committee session. The chairs will call upon each country to confirm their presence. You have two options: *"present"* or *"present and voting."* Choosing *"present and voting"* means you must vote on resolutions later, whereas *"present"* gives you the flexibility to abstain if needed.

Setting the Agenda 📋

After the roll call, the next step is setting the agenda. The chair will ask for suggestions on the topics to be discussed. Delegates will propose topics, and the committee will vote on the agenda. The selected topic becomes the main focus of the debate.

General Speakers List 🗣️🗣️

Once the agenda is set, the committee adopts a general speakers list. This list is the core of your debate. Delegates will sign up to speak, and each will have a set amount of time (usually 60-90 seconds) to present their country's position on the topic. Opening speeches allow each delegate to share their initial stance.

Delivering Effective Speeches 📣

When delivering your speech, always address the chairs and fellow delegates formally. Use phrases like *"Honorable chairs, fellow delegates,"* and **avoid** personal pronouns like *"I"* or *"me."* Instead, use *"we"* to represent your country. At the end of your speech, yield your time back to the chair, to another delegate, or to questions from the floor.

Motions 🪧

Motions are formal requests to change the flow of debate. There are two main types:

1. **Moderated Caucus** - Shorter, more dynamic speeches on specific subtopics.
2. **Unmoderated Caucus** - Informal discussion where delegates can move around and negotiate freely.

To propose a motion, once the chair asks whether any member has a motion to raise, raise your placard and state your motion. The chair will ask for seconds and objections, followed by a vote if necessary.

mymun

Documents 📁

Documents are crucial in MUN. They start as **working papers**, which are informal collections of ideas. 💡 These can evolve into **draft resolutions**, which follow a specific format and outline proposed solutions to the issues being debated. Eventually, the committee will vote on these draft resolutions.

Voting 🗳️

Voting is the final step. Delegates will vote in favor, against, or abstain from the resolution. If you are *"present and voting,"* you **cannot abstain.** The resolution passes if it receives a **majority vote.**

Recap ↻

To summarize:

1. **Roll Call** - Check attendance.
2. **Set the Agenda** - Decide on topics of debate.
3. **General Speakers List** - Main debate platform.
4. **Deliver Speeches** - Present your country's position.
5. **Motions** - Change debate flow with moderated or unmoderated caucuses.
6. **Documents** - Draft working papers and resolutions.
7. **Voting** - Pass resolutions with a majority vote.

If you have any questions or experiences to share, feel free to discuss them. See you in the next lesson, where we'll focus on preparation! 💪