

Model UN Masterclass 4/4 - Mastering MUN Documents



Introduction

Documents are at the core of Model United Nations (MUN). Unlike traditional debates, MUN aims to develop new and novel solutions to global issues. There are four main types of documents in MUN:

1. **Position Papers:** Created and submitted before the conference.
2. **Working Papers:** Initial documents discussed in committees.
3. **Draft Resolutions:** Formal proposals for action.
4. **Amendments:** Changes to draft resolutions.

This guide will dive into each of these document types.

Position Papers



Position papers are submitted **before** the conference. They serve as a tool to document your research and lay the foundation for future speeches and documents. Position papers typically include **three (3)** key components:

1. **Issue Description:** Describe the issue from your country's perspective.
2. **Key Aspects:** Highlight the key aspects of the issue that are important to your country.
3. **Proposed Measures:** Suggest measures your country believes will best address the issue. This helps you think ahead and prepares you for writing working papers and draft resolutions.

Working Papers



Working papers are the **first** documents **discussed** in committee. They can be created during discussions or prepared beforehand.

Characteristics of Working Papers:

- **No specific format:** They can include paragraphs, bullet points, or even scribbles.
- **Flexibility:** Avoid making them look too similar to draft resolutions to encourage collaboration.



- **Preparation:** Prepare working papers to show you have concrete ideas but avoid being too prescriptive.

Draft Resolutions

Draft resolutions are [formal documents](#) proposing specific actions. They follow a strict format and are divided into two parts: pre-ambulatory clauses and operative clauses.

Pre-ambulatory Clauses

- [Justify the actions](#) taken in the operative clauses.
- Reference previous resolutions, reports, and relevant documents.
- Begin with introductory phrases (e.g., "*Recalling*," "*Recognizing*").

Operative Clauses

- [Outline the specific actions](#) to be taken.
- Begin with action-oriented words (e.g., "*Decides*," "*Urges*").
- Include details on implementation, timing, and scope.
- Be specific to avoid criticism of being too vague.

Example of a Draft Resolution Structure

1. **Pre-ambulatory Clauses:**
 - No full stops, only commas or semicolons.
 - Introduce with phrases like "*Recalling*," "*Recognizing*."
2. **Operative Clauses:**
 - Numbered and specific.
 - Introduce with action words like "*Decides*," "*Urges*."
 - Detailed to ensure clarity and avoid vagueness.

Amendments

Amendments allow delegates to make [changes to draft resolutions](#) before voting. They can be used to:

- Add new clauses.
- Remove undesirable clauses.
- Modify existing clauses.

Using Amendments



- Follow your [chair's directions](#) for submitting amendments.
- Gauge whether to push for amendments or to debate the resolution as it stands.
- Amendments can significantly alter the meaning of a resolution.

Summary

To recap, the four main types of MUN documents are:

1. **Position Papers:** Outline your country's stance and proposed solutions.
2. **Working Papers:** Initial, flexible documents to brainstorm and collaborate on ideas.
3. **Draft Resolutions:** Formal documents proposing specific actions with a structured format.
4. **Amendments:** Tools to modify draft resolutions before voting.

By mastering these documents, you can effectively participate in MUN, propose meaningful solutions, and contribute to the success of your committee.

Congratulations on completing your first conference! 

We hope this masterclass series has helped you feel more comfortable with MUN procedures and prepared you for future conferences. See you at your next MUN event!  