***Researching Conference Topics***

Once you have learned about the country you represent and its government, people, and economy, you should develop an understanding of the issues that will be debated at your committee. Many conferences send out background materials or issue briefs, which can help jump start your research. You may want to look at the sources cited in these materials for more in-depth information. If the conference background materials pose questions, you should answer them with your country information in mind.

Here are some additional questions to help guide your research:

•What is the problem? How does it affect your country?

•What has your country done to combat the problem?

•What are the various "sides" in the debate?

•Which aspects of the issue are most important to your country?

•If your country is not involved with the issue, how can it become involved?

•How will your country shape the debate at the conference?

•What arguments will other countries make?

•How do the positions of other countries affect your country's position?

•Is there evidence or statistics that might help to back up your country's position?

Tips for Researching Issues

Check out news and media for up-to-date developments on an issue.

Google Alerts is a great resource for finding up-to-date news on your topic. Google Alerts are email updates of the latest relevant Google results (web, news, etc.) based on your queries. Just enter terms relevant to your topic, and a digest of relevant web pages and news articles will be sent to your free Gmail account on a daily, weekly, or even instantaneous basis.

Ask your community, school or university librarian if you can get access to LexisNexis Academic Universe. LexisNexis is a system that searches thousands of periodicals. Another service is Questia. This service costs about $15.00 per month, but allows you to access thousands of documents from your personal computer. Ask if your school already has access.

Look at the UN Global Issues page, which has an index to some prominent issues as well as a list of UN agencies that work in various issue-areas. Also, through the United Nations Documentation Center, you can find resolutions and voting records from the current and previous years.

Visit non-governmental organization (NGO) websites. NGOs are an important part of the UN system, in part due to the valuable research and information they generate. Look for NGOs that address your topic.

Read academic publications. Although they can be complex, they provide in-depth information on many issues. Professors, students and researchers are constantly conducting studies and publishing papers.

**News Media**

UN-Specific News Sources

•UN News Centre

•The Interdependent

•UN Dispatch

•UN Wire (email)

•Turtle Bay blog (Foreign Policy Magazine)

•What's In Blue (Security Council news)

•UN Chronicle

•OurWorld 2.0 (from United Nations University)

Newspapers From Around the World

•Search for Newspapers by geographic region

•World Magazine and Newspaper Directory

•ABC News

•Associated Press

•BBC News

•CBC News Online

•CNN

•The Economist

•Economist Intelligence Unit

•The Financial Times

•Latin America News Sources online

•MSNBC

•The New York Times

•Reuters

•Agence France-Presse (AFP)

•The Times (London)

•The Washington Post

**United Nations**

Specific links to UN bodies are listed under the topic headings.

General UN Resources

•United Nations Website

•World Map of UN Websites

•Organizational Chart of the UN System (click on a UN body on the chart to go to its homepage)

•Official Website Locator for the UN System

•UN Department of Public Information

•UN Databases

•UN News Centre

•UN E-mail News Service

•UN Depository Libraries

•UN Chronicle magazine

•United Nations University

Principal Organs of the UN

•General Assembly

•Economic and Social Council

•Security Council

•International Court of Justice

•Secretariat

•Trusteeship Council

General Assembly Committees

•First Committee: Disarmament and International Security

•Second Committee: Economic and Financial

•Third Committee: Social, Humanitarian and Cultural

•Fourth Committee: Special Political and Decolonization

•Fifth Committee: Administrative and Budgetary

•Sixth Committee: Legal

Economic and Social Council Functional Commissions

•Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

•Human Rights Council

•Commission on Narcotic Drugs

•Commission on Population and Development

•Commission on Science and Technology for Development

•Commission for Social Development

•Commission on the Status of Women

•Commission on Sustainable Development

•UN Statistical Commission

Regional Commissions

•Economic Commission for Africa

•Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific

•Economic Commission for Europe

•Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean

•Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia

UN Programmes and Funds

•UN Children's Fund (UNICEF)

•UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)

•UN Women

•UN Development Programme (UNDP)

•UN Environment Programme (UNEP)

•UN-Habitat

•UN High Commissioner for Refugees

•UN Population Fund (UNFPA)

•UN Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees (UNRWA)

•World Food Programme (WFP)

UN Specialized Agencies

•Food and Agriculture Organization

•International Civil Aviation Organization

•International Fund for Agricultural Development

•International Labour Organization

•International Maritime Organization

•International Monetary Fund

•International Telecommunication Union

•UN Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization

•UN Industrial Development Organization

•Universal Postal Union

•World Bank Group

•World Health Organization

•World Intellectual Property Organization

•World Meteorological Organization

•World Tourism Organization

Related Organizations and Other UN Bodies

•International Atomic Energy Agency

•International Criminal Court

•Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS

•UN Disarmament

•UN Peacekeeping

•UN Office on Drugs and Crime

•World Trade Organization

**Sample Position Paper**

Committee: International Labor Organization

Topic: Globalization and Development

Country: Romania

\*This sample position paper was submitted by the delegation of Romania at the 2007 UNA-USA Model UN Conference in New York City.

In the past two decades the rapidly growing world trend has been toward globalization. With the emergence of the internet as a means of communication and the increasing accessibility of international trade physical barriers are not the only barriers withering away. Protective tariffs are plummeting and free trade agreements are becoming more prevalent. Romania appreciates that globalization creates favorable situations for expansion of commercial as well as economic assets. In the past year Romania has seen a foreign direct investment (FDI) increase of 199%. Inward FDI increased from EURO 234 million in 2005 to EURO 699 million in 2006. However, Romania realizes that increased globalization does not automatically produce more equality.

Globalization and Development can contribute to the advancement of the overall international human condition; however, the delegation of Romania recognizes that without proper regulation the potential for advancement will remain limited to an elite few individuals, businesses, and nations. Unless checked and aimed toward the common good, globalization cannot effectively serve the global community. Crucial in dealing with the complexities of globalization, good governance must act with solidarity and responsibility. Romania believes that in involving people in globalization we must promote moral values, democratic principals, inclusive global political culture, institutions that safeguard both individual civil rights and inherent freedoms, and the common good. In addition, coping with the influx of information from globalization governments must act with solidarity and insight. Access to digital education will undoubtedly result in the confidence of citizens in their respective administrations and allow for a greater degree of transparency, and therefore a lesser degree of corruption.

Romania believes the multinational business community has the ability and the obligation to support pertinent values in human rights, labor standards, and environmental preservation. As stated by the president, Mr. Traion Basescu, Romania feels a "heartfelt attachment to multilateralism, as an effective instrument designed to identify the adequate answers to the challenges brought by globalization."

Romania is party to the majority of multilateral treaties and conventions identified as such by the Secretary General in the context of the Millennium Summit in 2001. Romania has always supported innovative and effective ways of establishing cooperation within and between regional organizations. As one of the newest members of the European Union, Romania is an active member of the World Trade Organization, and looks forward to offering its support to the redirection of globalization to best benefit the global community.

**Collecting Country Information**

When researching your position at a Model UN conference, you will first need to learn about your country so you can address the issues raised at the conference as a real UN delegate from that country would. To represent your country accurately, start by answering the following questions:

•What sort of government does your country have?

•What types of ideologies (political, religious or other) influence your country's government?

•Which domestic issues might influence your country's foreign policy?

•What are some major events in your country's history? Why are they important?

•Which ethnicities, religions and languages can be found in your country?

•Where is your country located and how does its geography affect its political relationships?

•Which countries share a border with your country?

•Which countries are considered allies of your country?

•Which countries are considered enemies of your country?

•What are the characteristics of your country's economy?

•What is your country's gross domestic product (GDP)? How does this compare to other countries in the world?

•When did your country become a member of the UN?

•Does your country belong to any intergovernmental organizations outside the UN system such as the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) or the Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)?

•Does your country belong to any regional organizations such as the European Union (EU), the African Union (AU) or the Organization of American States (OAS)?

•Does your country belong to any trade organizations or agreements such as the North American Free Trade Agreement (NAFTA) or the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)?

Tips for Researching Your Country

Look up your country's permanent mission to the UN. You can also call the mission directly to ask questions or request a position statement on an issue.

Find your country's voting records and read speeches on the United Nations Bibliographic Information System website.

Look at the CIA World Factbook for a general overview on your country, and for figures and statistics as well. The World Factbook is produced by the United States Central Intelligence Agency (CIA). Would your country's government agree with the way your country is characterized in the World Factbook?

Check out news and media sources for recent developments in your country.

Read the U.S. State Department background notes on your country.

**International Organizations**

•African Development Bank

•African Union (AU)

•Alliance for Small Island States

•Andean Community

•Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation

•Asian Development Bank

•Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)

•Caribbean Community and Common Market

•Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

•Council of the Baltic States

•Council of Europe

•Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)

•European Union (EU)

•G8 Information Centre

•G77 (Group of 77)

•International Organization for Migration

•League of Arab States

•Mercosur (Southern Common Bank)

•North American Development Bank

•North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO)

•Organization of American States (OAS)

•Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD)

•Organization of the Islamic Conference

•Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)

•Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE)

•Paris Club

•Pacific Islands Forum

•Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO)

•Secretariat of the Pacific Community

•Union of South American Nations (Spanish)

•Western European Union

**Position Papers**

Model UN Preparation

Many conferences require that each delegation submit a position paper—an essay detailing your country's policies on the topics being discussed in your committee. Writing a position paper will help you organize your ideas so that you can share your country's position with the rest of the committee. If you conduct extensive research, a position paper should be easy to write.

Most conferences that require position papers ask for them about one month before the conference so that staff members can read them and get a feel for the direction debate will take. If the conference you are attending does not require a position paper, you should still consider writing one to help you organize your research and prepare your speeches. Many delegates use their position papers as their opening remarks.

View a sample position paper to help you write an effective position paper.

How to Write a Position Paper

Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful.

Position papers are usually one to one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

Many conferences will ask for specific details in a position paper, so be sure to include all the required information. Most conferences will provide delegates a background guide to the issue. Usually, the background guide will contain questions to consider. Make sure that your position paper answers these questions.

A good position paper will include:

•A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;

•How the issue affects your country;

•Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;

•Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;

•Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;

•Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;

•Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;

•UN actions that your country supported or opposed;

•What your country believes should be done to address the issue;

•What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and

•How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

Position Paper Tips

•Keep it simple. To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.

•Make it official. Try to use the seal of your country or create an "official" letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.

•Get organized. Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.

•Cite your sources. Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.

•Read and reread. Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.

•Speech! Speech! Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? A good position paper makes a great introductory speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country's policies.

•Let the bullets fly. Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

**Flow of Debate**

Model UN Preparation

It is sometimes helpful to think of a Model UN conference as if it were a play in which delegates are the actors and Secretariat members are the directors. The storyline of a stage show is similar to what Model UNers call the "flow of debate" – the order in which events proceed during a Model UN conference. Just like scenes in a theatrical performance, debate unfolds in several different parts. The chart below shows the various stages of debate that take place during a Model UN simulation. Being familiar with how the action will proceed, from the first "scene" to the last, is an important way to prepare yourself for a Model UN conference.

Roll Call

The Chairperson will announce each country's name. After delegates hear their country, they should answer "present."

Setting the Agenda

When Model UN committees have more than one topic available, the body must set the agenda to begin working on one of these issues. At this time a delegate typically makes a motion, stating "The country of [name] moves to place [topic A] first on the agenda, followed by [topic B] and then [topic C]." Once the motion has been made, three delegations must speak in favor of the motion, and three other delegations will speak against it. These speeches should alternate between those in favor and those opposed. Once these six speeches have been given, a vote is taken. Setting the agenda requires a simple majority vote.

Debate

Formal Debate: Formal debate revolves around a speakers list. The Chair begins by asking all delegates interested in addressing the other members to raise their placards. The Chair then chooses delegates to be placed on the speakers list. A country may only be on the speakers list once, but delegates may add their country to the end of the list after their speech.

1a. When the session begins, speeches focus on stating country positions and offering recommendations for action.

2a. After blocs have met, speeches focus on describing bloc positions to the entire body.

3a. Delegates now make statements describing their draft resolutions to the committee.

4a. Delegates try to garner more support through formal speeches and invite others to offer their ideas.

5a. Delegates make statements supporting or disagreeing with specific draft resolutions.

6a. Delegates present any amendments they have created. Informal Debate: Informal debate involves discussion outside of the speakers list. During moderated caucuses, the Chair calls on delegates one-by-one so that each can address the committee in short speeches. During unmoderated caucuses, the committee breaks for a temporary recess so that delegates may meet with each other and discuss ideas.

1b. After several countries state their positions, the committee breaks for caucuses (often in blocs) to develop regional positions.

2b. Writing begins as countries work together to compose draft resolutions.

3b. Countries and groups meet to gather support for specific draft resolutions.

4b. Delegates finalize draft resolutions.

5b. Draft-resolution sponsors build greater support for their resolution and look to incorporate others’ ideas through friendly amendments.

Close of Debate

Once the speakers list is exhausted, the committee automatically moves to voting. Also, once a delegate feels that his or her country's position is clear to others and that there are enough draft resolutions on the floor, he or she may make a motion to proceed into voting procedure by moving for the closure of debate.

Voting Procedures

Once a motion to close debate has been approved, the committee moves into voting procedure. Amendments are voted on first, then resolutions. Once all of the resolutions are voted on, the committee moves to the next topic on the agenda.

**Caucusing**

Model UN Preparation

Caucusing, or informal debate, is an important part of the Model UN simulation because it provides an opportunity for delegates to collaborate, negotiate and formulate draft resolutions. During a Model UN conference, caucuses can be either moderated or unmoderated.

When a committee holds a moderated caucus, the Chair calls on delegates one at a time and each speaker briefly addresses the committee. During an unmoderated caucus, the committee breaks for a temporary recess from formal proceedings so that delegates can work together in small groups. To hold a caucus, a delegate must make a motion and the committee must pass the motion.

Many delegates prefer to speak during a moderated caucus rather than being placed on the speaker's list. In a moderated caucus, speakers are usually able to convey one or two key points to the entire committee or share new ideas that have developed through the course of debate. A delegate sometimes chooses to make a motion for a moderated caucus if his or her name is close to the end of the speakers list. By speaking in a moderated caucus, delegates are able to address the committee much earlier.

In most cases, more than half of committee time is used for unmoderated caucusing. Many delegates feel this is the easiest way for them to collaborate and start to formulate draft resolutions.

Tips for Effective Caucusing

•Enter the caucus with a plan in mind: Formulate ideas on what your country would like to see included in a resolution. Decide which clauses you are willing to negotiate on and which you are not.

•Find delegates in your regional bloc: This is the easiest way to seek out allies. However, if you find that the group you are working with is not meeting your needs, do not be afraid to switch groups.

•Provide ideas: Tell others what your country is hoping to achieve. If you do not agree with an idea, do not hesitate to say that it is against your country's policy.

•Negotiate: While it is often necessary to give up something that you want, make sure that you are not giving up anything too important.

•Listen: By listening to what others are saying you will able to build on other people's ideas and add more to the discussion. Listening also shows respect for each delegate in your group.

•Do not interrupt: Allow other delegates to finish their thoughts rather than interrupting others in the middle of a sentence. It sometimes helps to write down your idea so that you can bring it up when the delegate is finished speaking.

•Record ideas: Start to formulate a resolution in writing. Rather than waiting until the last minute, begin recording fellow delegates' ideas right away.

•Be resourceful: By providing fellow delegates with resolution text, maps or information as they need it, you will show that you are valuable to the group.

•Have one-on-one conversations: Speaking with an individual or in a small group is the best way to find out a delegate's position on an issue. Larger groups are better suited to brainstorming.

•Stay calm: In caucuses, delegates can sometimes "lose their cool." Staying calm will not only help your group be more effective, but will be noticed by the conference staff. Always keep your voice at a normal level. If you see that you are becoming upset or raising your voice, excuse yourself from the group for a few minutes.

•Use time effectively: Make sure you have enough time to hear everyone's ideas so that you can discuss them during formal debate. Try not to waste time arguing over small details that do not seriously affect the draft resolution.

•Show respect: Never give orders or tell other delegates what they should or should not do. Be polite and treat all your fellow delegates with respect.

•Provide constructive critique: Rather than negatively criticizing another delegate, focus on providing constructive critique. If you dislike an idea, try to offer an alternative. Critique ideas, not people.

•Establish connections with other delegates: Although it can be tempting to call a fellow delegate "Pakistan," "Brazil" or "Sweden", you can form a better connection with a delegate by learning his or her name and where he or she comes from. Ask the delegate about his or her ideas and impressions of the debate. Showing interest in your fellow delegates at the beginning of the conference will help you gain more support later on and can help you to form lasting friendships.

**Sample Resolution**

Resolution GA/3/1.1

General Assembly Third Committee

Sponsors: United States, Austria and Italy

Signatories: Greece, Tajikistan, Japan, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: "Strengthening UN coordination of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies"

The General Assembly,

Reminding all nations of the celebration of the 50th anniversary of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which recognizes the inherent dignity, equality and inalienable rights of all global citizens, [use commas to separate preambulatory clauses]

Reaffirming its Resolution 33/1996 of 25 July 1996, which encourages Governments to work with UN bodies aimed at improving the coordination and effectiveness of humanitarian assistance,

Noting with satisfaction the past efforts of various relevant UN bodies and nongovernmental organizations,

Stressing the fact that the United Nations faces significant financial obstacles and is in need of reform, particularly in the humanitarian realm,

1.Encourages all relevant agencies of the United Nations to collaborate more closely with countries at the grassroots level to enhance the carrying out of relief efforts; [use semicolons to separate operative clauses]

2.Urges member states to comply with the goals of the UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs to streamline efforts of humanitarian aid;

3.Requests that all nations develop rapid deployment forces to better enhance the coordination of relief efforts of humanitarian assistance in complex emergencies;

4.Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations from the private transnational sector to aid in funding the implementation of rapid deployment forces;

5.Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information on the political, economic and social situations and events of all countries;

6.Calls upon states to respond quickly and generously to consolidated appeals for humanitarian assistance; and

7. Requests the expansion of preventive actions and assurance of post-conflict assistance through reconstruction and development. [end resolutions with a period]

**Public Speaking**

Model UN Preparation

Public speaking is one of the most important skills you will use as a Model UN delegate. You will need to convey your member state's positions, help build consensus and formulate resolutions. Usually, the length of time a delegate is allowed to speak is set by the conference organizers. Delegates can make a motion to increase or decrease the time allotted to each speaker. If another delegate seconds the motion, then the committee will vote on changing the speaker's time.

You will have numerous opportunities to speak in your committee during a Model UN simulation. The Chair will maintain a speakers list of delegates who would like to make formal speeches. During caucusing you will have an opportunity to speak informally to delegates in your committee, but it is still important to keep the principles of effective public speaking in mind.

Although speaking is an important part of any Model UN simulation, many delegates fear speaking in front of a large group. The best way to cope with these fears is to be well-prepared. You should research as much as possible about your country and the issue the committee will be debating. You should be comfortable explaining your country's position and have ideas on what you would like to include in the committee's resolution. If you come to the conference prepared, you will be eager to speak in committee and project confidence.

How to Make An Opening Speech

•First, you should thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..."

•Then begin by providing a brief history on the issue as it relates to your country.

•Speak about how the issue is currently affecting your country.

•Provide your country's position on the issue. Include an explanation for your country's stance, such as economic or security concerns or political or religious ideology.

•You may choose to give an explanation of how your country's position relates to the positions of other member states such as the major powers or countries in your regional bloc.

•You should discuss some of the past actions taken by the UN, member states and NGOs to address the issue.

•Present ideas for a resolution, stressing your country's objectives for the resolution.

•Talk about the role that NGOs or regional organizations have to play in addressing the issue.

•Indicate to the committee members whether your country is willing to negotiate.

How to Make A Speech During Debate

•Again, you should thank the presiding official by saying "Thank you Mr./ Madame/ Honorable Chair/ President..."

•Encourage collaboration among member states by proposing ways that your country would be willing to work with other member states.

•By referencing what other delegates have said, you can show support for your allies or indicate which proposals your country does not favor.

•Present ideas for draft resolutions.

•Explain why your country does or does not support other draft resolutions.

Public Speaking Tips

•Prepare: Decide how you feel most comfortable delivering your speech. You may choose to use your position paper text as your opening speech or you may write out some key points. In time, you may feel comfortable speaking without any written notes at all. If you plan to use a word or phrase that is unfamiliar to you, make sure you learn its meaning and how to pronounce it properly.

•Practice: Rehearsing your speech is the best way to perfect your public speaking skills. Try practicing in front of a teacher, a parent, or fellow Model UNers from your class or club. When you listen to a speech, provide constructive feedback rather than criticism. When someone critiques your speech, accept the feedback graciously and use it as a tool to strengthen your public speaking.

•Consider your audience: Make your speech appropriate to the age and experience-level of the other delegates at the conference. Remember that the beginning of the speech should captivate your audience and make them want to hear more.

•Eliminate unnecessary "filler" words: Fillers are words and phrases such as "umm," "well," "sort of," and "like". These words take away from the message you are trying to convey. Some additional fillers to avoid are "so," "you know," "I think," "just," and "uh."

•Use meaningful pauses: Leaving a moment of silence between sentences can be a powerful public speaking tool. Pausing after an important point or before answering a question will help to hold the audience's attention. A pause can also give you time to formulate your next statement.

•Breathe: Try to breathe from your diaphragm – the organ below your lungs that controls your respiration. You are breathing properly if you can see your abdomen rising and falling with each breath. Try to inhale and exhale completely.

•Pace yourself: Don't talk too fast or too slow. Remember that most speakers have a tendency to talk too quickly.

•Choose a powerful posture: Be aware of your posture when you speak. Slouching, tilting your head and crossing your arms or legs will take away from your message. Stand up straight, relax your shoulders, plant your feet firmly and keep your knees unlocked to help you communicate confidence.

•Project your presence: Speaking in a low to medium volume can help to project authority, but make sure that you are speaking loud enough to be easily heard. Focus on speaking with enthusiasm and energy.

•Gesture: It is worthwhile to use your face, hands, arms and body to help you communicate as long as your motions do not distract the audience from your speech.

•Connect with your audience: Glance at your notes rather than reading them so that you can make eye contact with the other delegates. It is often helpful to speak directly to individual members of the audience.

•Get to the point: Speak concisely so that your audience does not lose your main arguments among less-important details. Try not to speak in circles. Instead, go straight to your most important point.

•Be positive: Rather than criticizing another point of view, critique it in a constructive way. Always provide alternatives and be sure to back up your arguments.

**Dressing for Success**

Model UN Preparation

Dressing professionally and appropriately is an important aspect of Model UN preparations. Just like being polite and having proper manners, dressing appropriately is an important way to show respect for the nation you are representing, for your fellow delegates and for the United Nations. At some conferences, delegates may wear their own national dress; however, most conferences will require western business attire.

What is Western Business Attire?

Western business attire, or international standard business attire, serves as customary dress for workplaces. It entails wearing a suit, which is made up of trousers, a matching jacket, a button-down dress shirt, and a tie. Conservative dress shoes and socks are also important. Skirts and dresses may also be worn as long as they fall to a decent length. The main thing to remember is to always insure that your appearance is tidy and put-together, and that you are well-covered.

Clothing

Females

Males

Suits A suit always looks professional. Be sure to keep suits clean and wrinkle-free. A suit always looks professional. Be sure to keep suits clean and wrinkle-free.

Tops No t-shirts. A blouse, sweater, or button-down shirt of any kind is appropriate. Dresses are also appropriate as long as they are not revealing and adequate in length (follow the rules below for skirt length). No t-shirts. A collared/button-down shirt is appropriate and do not forget a tie!

Bottoms No jeans or shorts. Slacks and suit-pants are acceptable. Skirts must be worn with pantyhose/stockings and should not be more than two inches above the knee. Bottoms should have a subtle pattern; avoid loud designs. No jeans or shorts. Slacks, preferable in dark colors, are appropriate.

Shoes No sneakers or open-toe sandals. Remember: high-heeled shoes may look pretty, but they can also be very uncomfortable, so use your discretion. No sneakers or open-toe sandals. Loafers or other types of dress shoes are preferred.

Hair Keep hair clean and out of your face for a professional look. Keep hair clean and out of your face a professional look.