

Order of Debate and Practice Tips

ORDER OF DEBATE:

I. Entertain Opening Statements – (60 seconds maximum). These speeches reveal a delegate’s political position on the committee topic. These speeches are not allowed to address any part of a debated resolution, as they will not have been presented yet.

II. Submitter of the Resolution Reads Out Operative Clauses

III. Submitter of the Resolution Gives the First “For Speech”* – (2 minutes maximum)

Points of Information will immediately follow

IV. The Floor is open to any delegate wishing to give a speech, regardless of their stance on the resolution

Points of Information will immediately follow

V. Instead of an alternation of for and against speeches, the floor will be opened after every speech to delegates wishing to speak for or against the resolution being debate. At this time any delegate wishing to speak may raise their placards and be called upon.

VI. Voting Procedures

*Only the first speech given by the main submitter of the resolution is designated to be for the resolution, all subsequent speeches do not have a designated stance.

TIPS FOR “FOR” & “AGAINST” SPEECHES

The following 10 tips may help you when writing a “For” or “Against” speech.

1.) In order to show respect to the chair, guests, and other delegates, always start your speech with “Honorable Chair, Fellow Delegates, and Most Esteemed Guests”,

2.) Remember that Model UN is all about persuasion. If you want to speak against a resolution, be prepared to persuade other delegates in the process of attacking or supporting the resolution being discussed.

3.) When writing any type of speech in MUN, you need to support your arguments with **evidence**. Examples are:

i. Specific clauses and line numbers within the resolution

ii. Research and Stats

iii. Personal stories – it is recommended that these stories be from your real life. * It is important that you be passionate about your personal connections, but keep in mind that you must also express an argument. You do not want your speech to be about “That person, doing that thing, at that place at that time...”

4.) A good speech has a clear, central idea (similar to a thesis) that immediately captivates and holds the audience’s attention. You want people to listen and understand your speech, and presenting a thesis, or argumentative statement, helps persuade the audience towards your views. At the beginning of your speech, try to present an argument that the rest of your speech will be about. Take the below example, which was the beginning of an “against” speech about a resolution concerning the prevention of HIV/AIDS.

“While the delegate of x applauds the delegate of y’s efforts to contain the outbreaks of HIV and AIDS, he believes that the delegate of y’s resolution does not address enough of the problems at hand with AIDS, or the needs of undeveloped countries, and thus this resolution cannot possibly be entertained.”

The statement above presents a clear argument to the audience: That the resolution being debated does not address enough of the problems of the underdeveloped countries or with the AIDS virus itself. If the speaker

were to continue his or her speech, he/she would utilize evidence from the debated resolution that supports his/her claim.

5.) Being persuasive in a speech is okay, and passion is important. Just remember to remain in a diplomatic manner and be respectful of other delegates' ideas. Writing a resolution is certainly difficult as you all know, so remember, it is okay to disagree, but do not vilify the resolution. **Arguments are encouraged. Negative comments about a delegate's country or status should be avoided. Be respectful!**

6.) Remember to use time well. Always have something to say, and always be ready to support your claims. If the chair grants caucusing time for the delegates to write speeches, use that time, as it is a luxury!

7.) When writing speeches, it is okay to acknowledge things that are the opposite of your opinion. For example, if you are writing a "For" Speech about a resolution, it is okay to say "Even though the resolution in question suggests something negative for this delegate's country, this delegate believes that another positive factor over shadows the negative one..." If you acknowledge the other side's views in your speech, it makes your arguments stronger, because it shows the audience that you are fully aware of both the good and the bad parts of the resolution.

8.) While giving a speech, look at the audience and remember to maintain eye contact. You want to draw the audience in, and looking at individuals in the eyes can really make a difference. Make them want to listen to you.

9.) Any speech should have a flow that is easy to follow. Use varieties in sentence structure when writing and in voice when reading so that the audience is captivated throughout your speech. Also, ensure that your speech has an effective order: An introduction, a body paragraph or two, and a conclusion.

10.) Any arguments that you introduce in the intro or in the body paragraphs should be brought full-circle in the conclusion. The conclusion should be a summary/brief synopsis of your point to remind the delegates of your main argument.

FINAL NOTE ON "FOR" & "AGAINST" SPEECHES

It is always a good idea to write something down before you make a speech. Making your speech up on the spot or "Winging It" is appropriate in dire circumstances in which you strongly disagree or agree with a resolution and you need to make a point because nobody else is speaking. Usually, this does not happen. Therefore, always ensure that you have a speech planned and ready to deliver, so that your arguments are strong, coherent, and logical.

HOW TO RESPOND TO POINTS OF INFORMATION

Speaking on the spot is very difficult – this is true for all of us. Speaking on the spot when asked a question that could make or break your argument is even harder. Because of this, there is no "set" way to respond to a point of information, and there is no "wrong way" or "right way". The worst part is that there is no way to prepare for a point of information because you do not know what other delegates will ask you. Here are some tips that may help, however.

A.) Take a deep breath, and take a couple seconds to think about the question being asked of you – after all, in order to make a good response, you have to understand the question!

B.) Make your answers concise and clear – you may answer with a yes/no, but back it up with sufficient evidence.

C.) You can ask the chair to then ask the delegate to repeat his/her question if you still do not understand... this will not only make the question clearer but also buy you time to think of a response! "Could the chair please ask

the delegate to repeat their question?” (Note: Do not overuse this privilege as the chair may deny your request; nevertheless always ask if you’re not sure about what a delegate is asking about exactly.)

D.) Be proactive and anticipate possible arguments that could be made against you. Take this into account when writing ‘for and ‘against’ speeches. If you can identify them, attack them during your speech. If you do, no one needs to ask a question that has already been answered!

E.) Be on the lookout for questions that can make you or your resolution look positive. Not all points of information are intended to assault your claims. If a delegate asks you a question that makes your argument look better, put on a big smile and answer it in a persuasive manner. This type of a point of information is usually referred to as a leading question.