



Comox Valley Elementary Model United Nations

Student Guidebook

**Everything you need to know about
Model UN**

WHAT IS MODEL UN?



Model United Nations, or “MUN” is an **academic simulation** of the United Nations. Students are “delegates” representing a country in formal debate.

Real-world issues such as climate change, education, and poverty, are discussed and debated. The final goal being **developing solutions**, policy changes, and resolutions.

Conferences and debates are conducted with a very specific structure based on **procedure** in UN Assemblies.

Skills developed through Model UN include **public speaking**, research, critical and analytical thinking, collaboration, and **diplomacy**.

DIPLOMACY IS NOT A SPECTATOR SPORT.

YOUR ROLE



BEING A DELEGATE

As a delegation of a country, or **delegate**, your role is to act as an ambassador or **diplomat of your assigned country**.

You get to represent and defend the **stance of your country on a given topic**.

CONFERENCE DECORUM

Delegates are representatives. The **stance of your country may not align with your opinion**, but it is your job to **debate as if it is**.

As a representative, the way you present this opinion in debate is important. Since you are speaking on behalf of the country, **personal pronouns are strictly forbidden in moderated caucus**. During speeches, stance is presented as, for example,

“Canada believes that **we** should focus on ____.”

“the **delegate of Iran** thinks that ____.”

“**we** urge the UN to consider this issue.”

“it is in **our** country’s best interest to ____.”

YOUR ROLE



DECORUM CONTINUED

The purpose of Model UN is **diplomacy**. This is not a debate with a winner and a loser, delegates are intended to work together and **collaborate to form a solution to a problem**.

It is also very important that you remember the **complexities of the UN**. Nobody's views will align perfectly, and it is the responsibility of the delegates to ensure that their **solution benefits the largest number of people**. Blocs may form with the same goal, but contain two countries who have had past minor disagreements.

RESPECT

A conference is a **formal and academic event**. You are **expected to be responsible and respectful** to your fellow delegates, the conference space, and the staff.

During debate, there will be countries that you disagree with, but it is still important to **debate their points respectfully**. If your country is directly violated or insulted in debate, the dias will grant you right of reply.

MODEL UN KEY TERMS



Model UN is unique in its style of debate - meaning that **certain language and procedures are used**. The following terms will help you better understand the workings of a conference and what's being said.

Dias - The staff who administer a Model UN Committee

Delegate - a student who is representative for a particular state or person in a Model UN Committee

Chair/co-chair - members of the dias who moderate debate and enforce rules of procedure

Motion - raised by delegates, it is used to discuss procedural matters and help further discussion

Committee - a body that is tasked with investigating, reporting, and taking action on a particular issue

Speakers list - a list that determines the order that the delegates speak in

KEY TERMS CONTINUED

Bloc - a group of countries with either a similar geographic location or opinion on a certain topic

Moderated caucus - discussion that is moderated by the chair, regarding a certain sub-topic

Unmoderated caucus - delegates can move around the committee room and have informal discussions about the topic

Sponsor - someone who made significant contribution to the creation or writing of a resolution

Signatory - People who believe a resolution is significant enough to submit to the dias for debate

Placard - signboard that shows who the delegate is representing, can be raised when one would like to speak

Decorum - proper etiquette that is expected of delegates during committee sessions

Adjourn - suspending debate for a particular committee session

Abstain - deciding to not vote on a particular matter.

Point of Inquiry - a question to the chair, regarding clarifications of rules and procedures

Amendment - a formal proposal to change, add, or delete text in a draft resolution

FLOW OF DEBATE

OPEN DEBATE & ROLL CALL

1

Opening debate begins with roll-call. All countries will be called on, and delegates may respond with either “present” or “present and voting”. You are encouraged to say “**present and voting**” to ensure you can vote in that committee session. After roll-call, a **delegate must motion for debate to begin**. This motion must pass to begin the conference.

SPEAKERS LIST

2

The **speakers list** is an opportunity to present an opening speech detailing your country’s stance. Speaking is optional, but this is where you can observe others positions on the topic. If you present on the primary speakers list, when you finish your speech, you must cede your time to the chair, or another delegate.

FORMAL DEBATE

3

To move from the speakers list to **formal debate**, a delegate must raise their placard and motion for a moderated caucus. *E.g.* “Motion for a 10 minute **moderated caucus** with a 30 second speaking time on the topic of economic impact of refugees.”

MODERATED CAUCUS

4

The Dias will take a list of all delegates wishing to speak once a motion has passed. During moderated caucus, you will **present your speech within the set time**. This is where the majority of debate takes place.

FLOW OF DEBATE

UNMODERATED CAUCUS

5

Unmoderated caucus is one of the **most important aspects of Model UN**. These are motioned for later in debate, but with the same style as moderated caucus.

E.g. *“Motion for a 20 minute unmod to begin forming blocs.”*

This is where you can get up, **move around the room, and talk to countries you agree with.**

DRAFTING RESOLUTIONS

6

Once you have formed blocs, draft resolutions are started. This is a document that **formally outlines the solutions your blocs want to see.**

You need at least **two sponsors, and four signatories**. The required formatting will be in your background, and provided day-of.

AMENDMENTS & VOTING

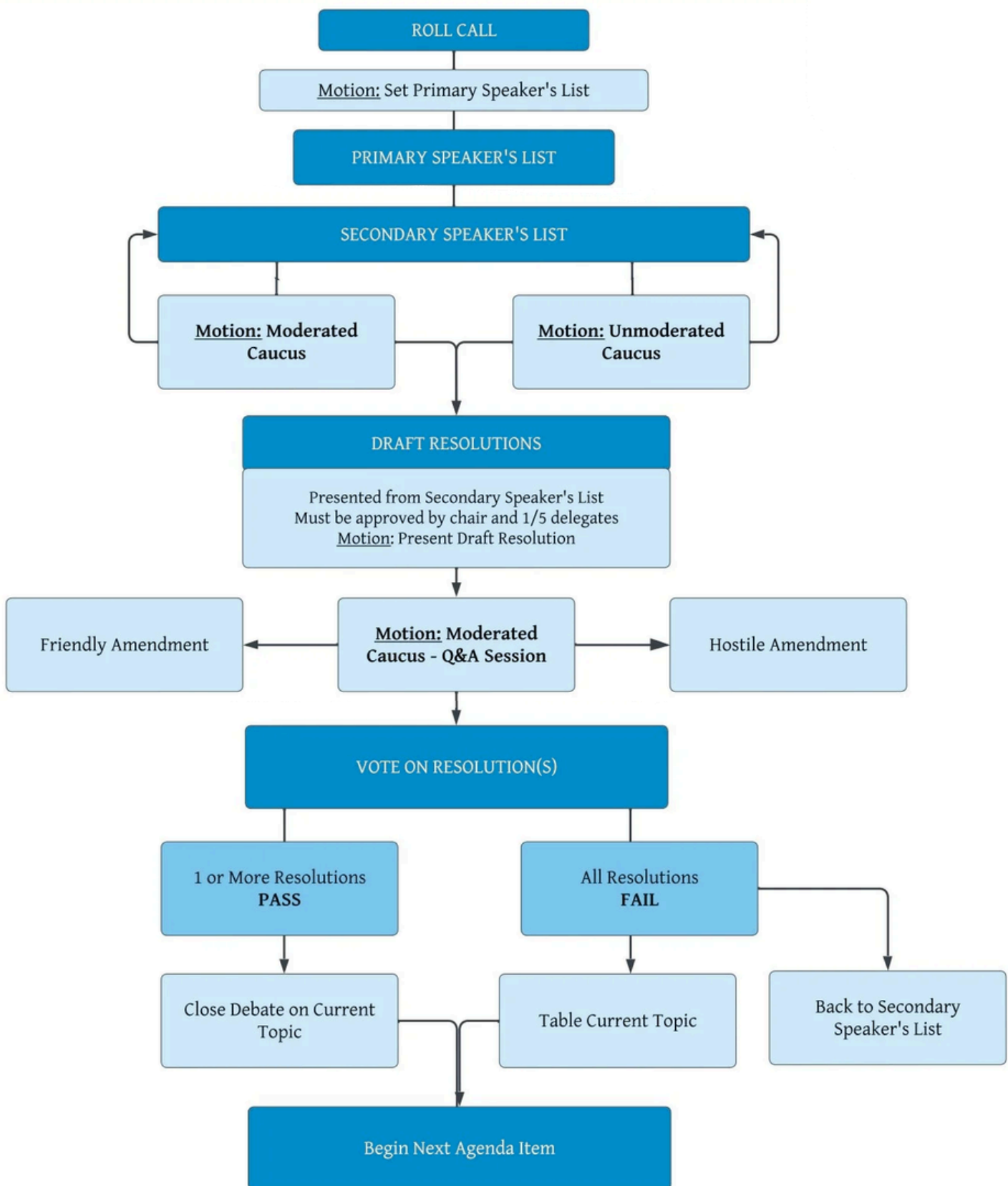
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When draft resolutions are finalized, sponsors will present their papers, followed by a **Q&A period**, then amendments. Any **changes your country wants to see must be presented at this time**. Once all blocs have presented their papers, voting procedure begins. **Every delegate that voted “present and voting” must vote on a resolution.**

CLOSE DEBATE

8

If a resolution passes, a delegate must **motion for debate to be closed**. Once this motion passes, *congratulations!* You have successfully **completed your conference**.



HOW TO PREPARE



Preparing for Model UN, there's a few key things you'll want to know and research. **Keeping your information organized is important**, so you'll want to create a briefing booklet, but having a position paper, and an idea of how to create a draft resolution are also essential.

PREPARING FOR A CONFERENCE YOU WILL NEED:

- **Briefing booklet**

The comprehensive guide to your country, committee, and all your required info.

- **A position paper**

A document outlining and explaining your country's stance.

- **Prepared speeches**

Pre-written speeches covering points you want to debate in the conference, or topics you think will come up.

- **Notes**

Anything extra. Your possible allies, potential topics, questions, solutions your country wants to see implemented, etc.

- **Guide to draft resolutions**

Your outline on how to write a working paper/draft resolution.

You will be given notepaper and a placard when you arrive.

DRESSCODE



Model UN is a formal event, and therefore has a dress code. Students will be asked to dress as professionally as possible, and follow some guidelines for this conference.

AGAINST DRESS CODE

Please **do not wear**, jeans, sweatpants, leggings or yoga pants, open-toed shoes, t-shirts, or hoodies.



BOYS DRESS

Boys formal attire usually includes a collared shirt and dress pants. Ties are highly recommended. Blazers and dress shoes are encouraged but not required. Quarter-zips and crewnecks over the dress shirt are acceptable.

GIRLS DRESS

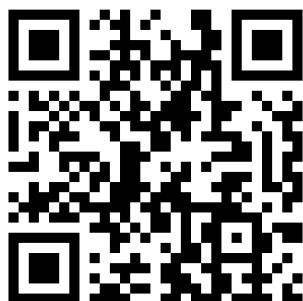
For girls, stick to a formal or button down shirt, and a pair of business pants, or a business skirt. Blazers and dress shoes/heels are encouraged, but not required. Try to wear matching pieces, if available to you. A plain sweater, or appropriate dress can also be acceptable, as well as a tie, dainty scarf, or any jewelery.

RESOURCES & ACTIVITIES

Some other resources are linked below with QR codes if you want to learn more about Model UN!

MUNprep.org

Everything you need to know about Model UN. This has quizzes, courses, and guides to specific aspects of debate.



Other

Research Guide



YouTube Videos

What is the UN?



Introduction to MUN



The UN Charter



