

OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA STATE YMCA

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Model United Nations Student Manual

# How to Write a Resolution

OHIO-WEST VIRGINIA STATE YMCA

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# Table of Contents

Prepare to Write a Resolution .....	1
Quality Resolutions Make an Exciting UN .....	3
Resolution Check Sheet .....	3
Resolution Writing Instructions .....	4
Evidence - Resolution Supplement .....	5
Supplement Resources May Include: .....	5
Resolutions and Supplement Are Due .....	6
Order Resolutions Considered.....	6
Resolution Rating Scale of 1 - 65 Points.....	6
Sample Resolution .....	7
Resolution Form .....	8
Resolution Supplement .....	9
Partial List of UN and other International Resources on the World Wide Web.....	10
For Making a UN Delegation More Effective and Model UN More Fun! .....	11
Some tips on preparing resolutions and positions on substantive issues .....	12
Suggestions for making the Model UN experience more productive and enjoyable .....	13

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# Prepare to Write a Resolution

Security Council nations write on maintaining international peace and security. All other nations write on any issue of international concern to their nation.

## 1. First, study your nation.

- What has shaped your nation's history, people, government, economy, international interests;
- What nations are allies, enemies, trading partners? Why? What alliances does your nation belong to, what international and regional organizations? Why?
- What are your nation's major international interests, problems, conflicts, successes? Why?
- Where is your nation? Locate it on a world map. Who are your neighbors? How do you get along with them? Why?
- What is the educational level of your population?
- How do your people reflect their culture through music, art and literature?
- What are the economic issues facing your nation, energy issues, human rights practices, military strength?
- Your nation and the United Nations
  - What year joined?
  - Did the UN help your nation become a nation? If yes, how?
  - What role, if any, does your nation believe the UN should have in world affairs? Why?
  - Does your nation believe the UN should be a debating society or take action? Why?
  - How much does your nation contribute to the UN budget? Are you current?
  - What do other nations contribute?

Ways to learn about your nation

- Watch the news, read newspapers and magazines; keep a file of articles on your nation.
- Contact your nation's embassy or UN mission.
- Join the UN's Model UN discussion group <http://www.un.org/pubs/cyberschoolbus/munda>.
- Visit <http://www.cia.gov/cia/publications/factbook/index.html> for accurate information and facts on all nations, including nation flags, demographic, political and economic information.
- [www.amun.org](http://www.amun.org) - American Model United Nations, Inc. is an official non-governmental organization (NGO) affiliated with the United Nations Department of Public information. A great reference and fact-finding site.

## 2. Choose a Topic for your Resolution

- As your study progresses, pick a topic of international interest or concern to your nation;
- You represent your nations' government. Your Resolution must represent your government's actual policy whether or not you like the policy;
- Make sure the topic is something your nation would actually bring before the UN; that it is an international issue and not an internal issue that would never be brought to the UN.

Sovereign nations do not bring issues to the UN that take away their sovereign powers. These powers are broad and include:

- a. Control of ALL police, military forces and actions.**
- b. Preservation of the nation's culture and traditions. No nation's government would ask the UN to take any action that would cause the nation to give up their culture or traditions.**
- c. Control of the nation's growth and functions - immigration, visitors, refugees, offshore water, trading, education, laws or policies, treaties, etc.**
- d. Any other powers reserved by the nation for its sole control.**

## Quality Resolutions Make an Exciting UN

- 1. Pick a nation in the spotlight. Do not pick an obscure nation that is not in the news.**
- 2. Be sure each pair of delegates in your delegation write on a different international issue.**
- 3. Use your imagination and brain to write a Resolution that is different, that has a unique solution - something no one else will have written.**
- 4. Call upon the UN to take action. Do not "form a committee," "conduct a study," "do a survey," etc. Propose an action solution.**
- 5. Write a Resolution that concerns other nations. Do not write one that only concerns your nation.**
- 6. Be sure the topic is within the responsibility of the United Nations and certainly do not write on an internal problem that your nation must solve on your own.**
- 7. Some topics are presented so often delegates are tired of them. Unless you have a new or unique solution to propose, do not write on AIDS, pollution, education, rain forest, birth control, etc.**

### Resolution Check Sheet

\_\_\_ Deals with only one issue.

\_\_\_ Accurately states the issue in the title.

\_\_\_ Is the official position of the nation presenting it?

\_\_\_ Is about an international issue. It is not about an internal issue of the nation.

\_\_\_ Does not duplicate any UN solution or program already in place.

\_\_\_ Calls upon the UN to take a specific action. It avoids "forming a committee," "conducting a study," or "doing a survey."

\_\_\_ Is written in simple, concise, everyday language.

\_\_\_ Represents clear thinking by the writers.

\_\_\_ Follows the format in the manual.

\_\_\_ Is no more than 33 lines double-spaced. It may be shorter.

\_\_\_ The Resolution is typed in final form, two (2) typed copies along with one (1) Resolution Supplement is at the UN Office by the due date.

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**Resolution Writing Instructions**

First, determine what you want the United Nations to do - what action do you want taken. Then, write your first draft. Write in ordinary, simple, concise language.

What you write must be read and understood by many people. Make the language as common as possible, arranged as simply as possible, using as few words as possible to say what you want.

Write no more than 33 lines double spaced. Resolutions may be shorter.

The three parts of the Resolution are:

Title

Preamble

Operative Clauses

**Title** The topic is clearly expressed in a short title that clearly identifies the subject without going into detail.

**Preamble** The Preamble explains the purpose of the Resolution. It gives background information and often refers to earlier UN Resolutions, the Charter or other international actions that have been taken.

#### PREAMBLE PHRASES

Affirming	Expressing its appreciation	Noting with regret
Alarmed by	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with satisfaction
Approving	Fulfilling	Noting with deep concern
Aware of	Fully aware	Noting further
Believing	Fully alarmed	Noting with approval
Bearing in mind	Fully believing	Observing
Confident	Further deploring	Realizing
Contemplating	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Convinced	Guided by	Recalling
Declaring	Having adopted	Recognized
Deeply concerned	Having considered	Referring
Deeply conscious	Having considered further	Seeking
Deeply convinced	Having devoted attention	Taking into account
Deeply disturbed	Having examined	Taking into consideration
Deeply regretting	Having studied	Taking note
Desiring	Having heard	Viewing with appreciation
Emphasizing	Having received	Welcoming
Expecting	Keeping in mind	

**Operative Clauses** state what the United Nations is to do about the issue being considered. Conclude the Resolution by stating, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that the United Nations (state the action to be taken).

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OPERATIVE PHRASES

Accepts  
Affirms  
Approves  
Authorizes  
Calls  
Calls upon  
Condemns

Congratulates  
Designates  
Emphasizes  
Encourages  
Endorses  
Expresses its appreciation  
Expresses its hope

Notes  
Proclaims  
Reaffirms  
Recommends  
Reminds  
Regrets  
Requests

## Evidence - Resolution Supplement

The Resolution Supplement tells why and how you wrote the Resolution. It also has evidence that supports your position.

The Supplement form is on pages 30 and 31 of this manual. Answer all of the questions.

You may also attach up to five (5) resources to the supplement. They may be newspaper articles, magazine articles, etc. Highlight the part of the resources that are the best evidence for your Resolution.

### Supplement Resources May Include:

- 1. Newspaper article - a photocopy is OK.**
- 2. Magazine articles from Time, Newsweek, US News and World Report, United Nations Chronicle, academic journals, etc.**
- 3. Printouts of Internet sources - state the website.**
- 4. Write up interviews with people you talk to who are experts on your topic. Include their name, date and why they are an expert.**
- 5. Printouts of e-mail from persons you consulted.**
- 6. Photocopy of book passages relevant to your paper.**
- 7. Parts of UN documents that relate to your paper.**
- 8. Copies of letters, pamphlets and/or documents you secured.**
- 9. Information on your paper that you secured from the nation you represent.**
- 10. Transcripts or notes from television or radio broadcasts concerning your topic.**

## Resolutions and Supplement Are Due

Have all your materials and information to your Delegation Leader by Christmas break so they are received by the UN Office in time to be included in the Resolution Book.

### Order Resolutions Considered

Complete Resolutions (those typed in duplicate and submitted along with a Resolution Supplement, Individual Registration Form and Final Fee - ON TIME) are rated for position in the Resolution Book.

Rating determines the order of Resolutions in the Resolution Book. Each Council will consider Resolutions assigned to it in the order the Resolutions appear in the Resolution Book. When reported out of Council, Resolutions are assigned in numerical order for consideration by the General Assembly. Before each General Assembly session a new calendar of Resolutions is made in numerical order.

All Resolutions are considered in Council. However, there may not be enough time to consider all in General Assembly. The higher the rating the better chance a Resolution has to be considered in GA.

### Resolution Rating Scale of 1 - 65 Points

- 1. The Resolution reflects the interests and position of its nation.**  
**15 points**
- 2. The Resolution deals with an issue appropriate for UN consideration.**  
**15**
- 3. The quality of research as demonstrated by copies of research.**  
**15**
- 4. The Resolution writers' commitment to their Resolution is demonstrated by the quality of their research, writing and achievement of other rating criteria.**  
**7**
- 5. The Resolution Supplement as demonstrated by the quality of the answers.**  
**7**
- 6. The use of correct English grammar, spelling and the Resolution format.**  
**6**

## Sample Resolution

**31<sup>st</sup> HI-Y Model United Nations**

**Introduced by:** Zackery Asbury, Tyrone Lamyathong  
**Representing:** United States of America

**Resolution # 2**  
**Council # 1**  
**Member of 4**

**TITLE: "DECREASING THE THREAT OF THE GLOBAL PANDEMIC: TERRORISM"**

1 HAVING EXAMINED, the increasing threat of all forms of international Chemical, Biological, physically Direct, and  
2 Cyber acts of terrorism,  
3 REAFFIRMING, that any act of international terrorism, constitutes a threat to international peace and security,  
4 RECALLING, the right of individual or collective self-defense as recognized by the Charter of the United Nations in  
5 Terrorism Resolution 1368 of 2001,  
6 FULLY AWARE, of the need to combat by all means, in accordance with the United Nations, threats to international  
7 peace and security caused by terrorist acts,  
8 DEEPLY CONCERNED, by the increase, in various regions of the world, of acts of terrorism motivated by intolerance  
9 or extremism,  
10 FURTHER DEPLORING, the world be a peaceful more productive place in the absence of terrorism  
11 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED, that all member nations of the United Nations in accordance with Chapter VII of the  
12 Charter of the United Nations take the following steps in decreasing the threat of terrorism around the  
13 world,  
14 REQUESTS, that all member nations exchange information and cooperate on administrative and judicial matters to  
15 prevent the executing of terrorist acts,  
16 REQUESTS ALSO, that all member nations prevent the movement of terrorists or terrorist groups by effective  
17 border controls and controls on identity papers and travel documents  
18 CALLING ON, all member nations to work together to prevent and suppress all forms of terrorist acts by increased  
19 cooperation and full implementation of the international committees relating to terrorism,  
20 EXPRESSES ITS HOPE, that the content and importance of this resolution is seen throughout the member nations  
21 of this United Nations.

# Resolution Form

HI-Y Model United Nations

RESOLUTION

Nation: \_\_\_\_\_

Ambassadors: \_\_\_\_\_

Presenting the Resolution: \_\_\_\_\_

RESOLUTION TITLE: \_\_\_\_\_

- 1.
- 2.
- 3.
- 4.
- 5.
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.
- 10.
- 11.
- 12.
- 13.
- 14.

# Resolution Supplement

Title of Resolution \_\_\_\_\_

Written by \_\_\_\_\_

Name of HI-Y Delegation/School \_\_\_\_\_

## Please answer these questions

1. In your own words, explain the purpose of the United Nations.

2. Explain the purpose of the United Nations General Assembly.

3. Do you realize the United Nations is not a world government?      Yes      No  
\_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

Do you know the United Nations cannot pass laws?      \_\_\_\_\_      \_\_\_\_\_

4. List the five permanent members of the Security Council and any power(s) they hold that other Security Council nations do not have.

5. How will the world be better if your Resolution is adopted?

6. Why is this issue important to your nation?

7. What other nations does this concern and how does it concern them?

## Partial List of UN and other International Resources on the World Wide Web

SITE	URL
<b>UN Home Page</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/">http://www.un.org/</a>
<b>UN Search Engine</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/search/">http://www.un.org/search/</a>
<b>UNDCP Home Page</b>	<a href="http://www.undcp.org/unlinks.html">http://www.undcp.org/unlinks.html</a> (Links to other areas)
<b>CIA Home Page</b>	<a href="http://www.odci.gov/cia/">http://www.odci.gov/cia/</a>
<b>SACIS International Affairs</b>	<a href="http://www.cam.org/sac/SACIS.html">http://www.cam.org/sac/SACIS.html</a>
<b>US Dept. of State</b>	<a href="http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/dosfan.html">http://dosfan.lib.uic.edu/dosfan.html</a>
<b>New York Times</b>	<a href="http://www.nyt.com">http://www.nyt.com</a>
<b>UN CyberSchoolBus/MUN Discussion Area</b>	<a href="http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/munda/index.html">http://www.un.org/Pubs/CyberSchoolBus/munda/index.html</a>
<b>Worldwide Governments on the WWW</b>	<a href="http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html">http://www.gksoft.com/govt/en/world.html</a>
<b>Model UN Topic Information</b>	<a href="http://www.tiac.net/users/process/modelun/topic.html">http://www.tiac.net/users/process/modelun/topic.html</a>
<b>Group of 77</b>	<a href="http://www.g77.org/">http://www.g77.org/</a>
<b>United Nations on Line</b>	<a href="http://www.unol.org/">http://www.unol.org/</a>
<b>Washington Post</b>	<a href="http://www.washingtonpost.com/">http://www.washingtonpost.com/</a>
<b>The Electronic Embassy</b>	<a href="http://www.embassy.org">http://www.embassy.org</a>
<b>Cornell's ICJ Homepage</b>	<a href="http://www.law.cornell.edu/icj/">http://www.law.cornell.edu/icj/</a>
<b>Global Policy Forum</b>	<a href="http://www.globalpolicy.org/index.htm">http://www.globalpolicy.org/index.htm</a>
<b>Inter-Parliamentary Union</b>	<a href="http://www.ipu.org/">http://www.ipu.org/</a>
<b>The United Nations under Challenge</b>	<a href="http://www.ncrb.unac.org/unreform/spencer-bibliography.html">http://www.ncrb.unac.org/unreform/spencer-bibliography.html</a>
<b>United Nations Watch</b>	<a href="http://www.unwatch.org/">http://www.unwatch.org/</a>

## For Making a UN Delegation More Effective and Model UN More Fun!

Suggested by Blaine Porter

**Model UN is essentially a role-playing game.** It may not have bizarre characters with supernatural powers as in games like Dungeons & Dragons, but each country has a distinct personality (national character) and each country has a unique set of strengths, weaknesses and powers in the international context. Come to think of it, some of the national personalities in the world community do seem bizarre and some of the powers approach the supernatural, so maybe MUN is not so different from D&D.

Regardless, the **MUN experience can be greatly enhanced by the delegation taking on the national characteristics of the country represented**, to the extent possible and practical. To a great extent, the degree to which members of the delegation can "get into" being citizens of the country they represent, the experience for each student will not only be more meaningful in terms of cross-cultural understanding, but is likely to be **a lot more fun as well.**

Some practical tips for preparing to represent a particular country effectively:

- Practice speaking in the first person when making presentations, e.g., "We Australians believe..." or "In Austria we..." Never use 3<sup>rd</sup> person pronouns like "they," "them" or "it" when referring to the country or people you represent. Always "we," "us," "our," etc. *This not only sounds better, but will remind you that you are playing the role of someone from a different country.*
- Early in the preparation process identify national values, attitudes, habits and other factors which set citizens of your country apart from others. Try to take on these characteristics and display them wherever appropriate.
- One fun way to set the "mood" is a session that includes dinner featuring national cuisine or ethnic dishes. Researching recipes and preparing the food is at least half the fun. *Hopefully eating will be the other half, but regardless, the exercise will build identity.*
- Plan, wherever possible, to wear national dress for all or much of the MUN weekend. (You might, for example, go for full costume for your country presentation or the Banquet of Nations, and opt for less elaborate dress for the working session. Often something simple will set your delegation

apart from all the others and constantly remind them and yourselves that you **are** Zambia, China or whatever. This may sound superficial, but it is a highly effective approach because **it is always visible and fun.**

- Use community resources to improve your understanding of the cultural flavor of the country you are to represent. Local residents from the country or the appropriate ethnic origin can give "flavor" to your group. There may even be a student in your school that fits this bill, or there may be foreign students from a nearby college who would be willing to help you. *They may also be helpful in loaning (or helping to make) costume items. They may also help with food for the "ethnic evening" suggested above.*
- If native or ethnic advisors are not available, find "experts" who have some understanding and knowledge of the country you are to represent. Again, nearby colleges may be a good resource.

## **Some tips on preparing resolutions and positions on substantive issues**

- A good place to start is with the "Background Notes" for your country. These are available from the Department of State free of charge for every country at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov). This series give a concise history as well as a simple view of the country's economy, political system, culture, ethnic & religious composition, and other factors. It will also suggest other sources of information and important contact information.
- Each country's Embassy in Washington, DC or Mission to the UN in New York City will usually be happy to answer questions and/or provide useful information and materials. (Addresses and contact information is available in the Background Notes, at [www.state.gov](http://www.state.gov). Many countries have their own website.)
- At the earliest stage of your preparations, try to get from the Embassy or UN Mission of your country their official UN priorities and objectives in the United Nations. If you're interested in particular issues, get their position on them. This will help you select issues for your resolutions, and determine positions you will take on resolutions drafted by other countries.
- If you approach them early enough, officials from an Embassy or UN Mission will often agree to visit your school (at no cost to you) to speak and answer questions. (You can probably work with other organizations in your community to have this official speak at other public forums, i.e.,

Rotary Club, Chamber of Commerce, or some other group with international interests. *Countries are always looking for opportunities to get their message out to the people of the United States.*)

- Use the other delegations at your school (if you represent more than one country); debate positions and argue issues.
- In preparing to deal with the issues of the session, remember that it is not only important to understand the position your country would take, but also the position others will take. Look for natural alliances, i.e., members of the EU (if you are Spain), other African countries (if you are Senegal), etc. Sometimes strong ties are forged by historical, ethnic or religious factors.
- Likewise, look for natural antagonists, e.g., Cuba can be counted on to be hostile to the USA and vice versa. Israel and the Arab countries don't get along and some neighbors are constant rivals.
- Once you have drafted your resolutions, try to find out how other countries voted in the real UN on similar resolutions. (This info is available from the United Nations, on the Web or from diplomatic representatives of your country).
- **Become an expert** - on your country and on your resolutions(s). Be prepared to teach other delegations - not only the facts of your issue, but the position of their country on your issue.

## **Suggestions for making the Model UN experience more productive and enjoyable**

- Stay in character. Adopting national dress will help more than you think and will impress other delegations.
- When speaking, always use "we" and "us," not "they" and "them" when referring to your country. Speak as your nation's ambassador. Say \_\_\_\_\_ (your nation) believes, recommends, demands, asks, etc. Do not say "I" feel, etc. This is not about you - it is about your nation.
- Form alliances with delegations representing nations friendly to yours. Vote with them and for them - as long as their resolutions coincide with your country's views. *Don't vote with them just because the delegation comes from your school or you like the individuals.*

- During caucus sessions, use information you have compiled on the other nations' positions on the issue. In lobbying for votes, it is very effective to be able to tell another delegation, "Your country supported this position in the UN." *It's even more effective if you can show voting records or positive statements from their country. If you out-prepare the other delegations before you get to the MUN, you likely will be able to out-debate them once you're there.*
- If your country is strongly opposed to a resolution being presented, use the caucus sessions to build alliances for your position. Knowing the positions of the other countries will help.
- If you don't know your country's position on a resolution being presented, ask advisors present at the MUN who would be likely to know.

For additional help or information contact:

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