

MODEL UNITED NATIONS

WHAT IS IT AND WHAT IS INVOLVED?

After learning the basics about the United Nations, you are ready to take the first step toward becoming a Model U.N. delegate. Throughout your preparation, remember teamwork. Working as a team in researching, brainstorming ideas, and providing each other with feedback early in your preparation will help you with your conference performance. Model U.N. delegates should start by researching the following:

1. The country you are representing
2. Your committee's topics
3. Work of the U.N. related to the committee and the country

STEP #1: Researching the Country You Are Assigned

First, you need to understand the basic facts about the country you will represent, such as:

- Geography: location, region, border states
- People: population, nationality, ethnic groups, languages, religion
- Government: head of state, U.N. ambassador, structure
- Economy: currency, imports, exports, major trading partners
- Foreign relations: regional organizations, allies, conflicts

STEP #2: Committee Topics

Each committee has a minimum of one to three topics. You should understand the topic and then find out your country's position on that topic. Our conference provides a delegate background guide. The background guide is information provided by the conference to give a basic introduction to the committee topics. It will give you a direction to start your research. Become familiar with the background guide; however, do not use it as your only source of information.

STEP #3: Position Papers

After your research, you will then write a one-to-four page (or more) "position paper" outlining your country's policy on the committee topic. Position papers will often be the basis for your first speech.

STEP #4: The Conference!!! ☺

"The MUN has altered my life because I had the chance to meet other people from all around the world and discuss common issues that will affect the future of all of us."

"MUN has given me a greater understanding of what goes on around me and has helped me to look at things from a different point of view."

- Quotes from former members of Carlisle's Model UN club