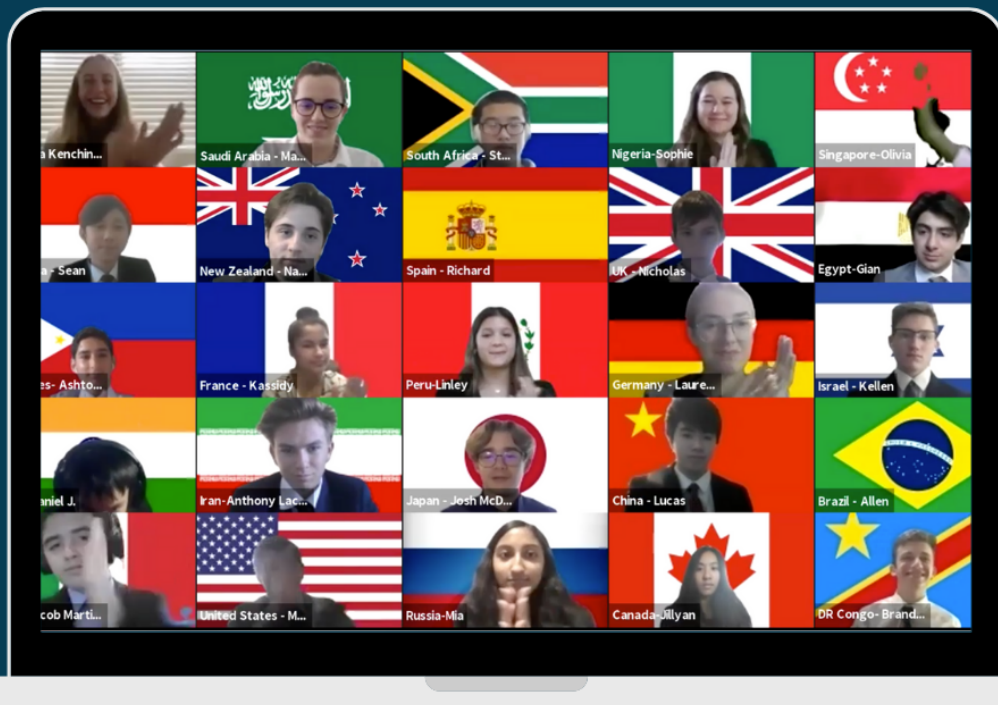


MODEL UN STARTER KIT

HOW TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MODEL UN CONFERENCES ON ZOOM



A STEP BY STEP GUIDE

For Students Ages 11-18



MODEL UN STARTER KIT
By Best Delegate

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BY BEST DELEGATE

WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS?

Whether you heard about it from the United Nations, your school, the over 500,000 students that participate in Model UN every year, or an episode of Parks and Recreation, Model UN is a rapidly growing activity for students around the world. **Model UN is a fantastic activity for students interested in building their understanding of international peace and security, health, technology, human rights, and the sustainable development goals.**



Model UN is more relevant than ever as the world confronts the global Covid-19 pandemic and other world-wide challenges. Students have the opportunity to **participate in Model UN via a virtual environment, connect with youth change-makers from across the globe, and use Model UN as a forum to, alongside our world leaders, consider what our community and society will look like in the years to come.**

Model UN is a transformational, cross-cultural activity that helped celebrities, Supreme Court justices, and even the former UN Secretary General Ban Ki-Moon get where they are today, but what exactly is Model UN?

At a Virtual Model UN conference, students transform themselves into World Leaders for a day or for an entire weekend. As a Model UN “delegate,” students take on the role of a representative of another country to the United Nations, where they have the opportunity to embrace that country’s perspective, argue for the policies of that country on the assigned topic, and write a resolution on behalf of their assigned country. This allows students to put themselves in the shoes of an international diplomat, seek to understand the issues that our world and other countries are facing, and propose implementable solutions to respond to those pressing challenges.

As a Model UN delegate representing an assigned country, **students participate in a “committee” with assigned topics.** They may learn about access to sustainable technology in developing countries, how sports can help promote peace, how to reduce the risk of nuclear war, how to curb the spread of global pandemics, or how the world can come together to stop the threat of global climate change. **Each delegate is presented with the task of deciding what the UN should do about these issues, finding other delegates with similar opinions to work with, and drafting and getting other delegates in committee to approve their “resolution” - a document filled with solutions to the issue at hand.**

Most of a Virtual Model UN conference is based in the **“committee,” where delegates will debate and discuss the topic, negotiate with one another, and ultimately write a resolution to take action on the issue.** A committee, at a Virtual Model UN conference, is a virtual room of 15-50 students, who are all representing different countries. **Students are led by a “Chair” who helps guide the committee,** foster engaging and dynamic debate, and ensure delegates are familiar with the virtual MUN elements.

WHY VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES?



THE COVID-19 AND POST-COVID ENVIRONMENT

In the midst of unprecedented global challenges and change due to the COVID-19 pandemic, students, educators, and world leaders alike face the task of adapting the ways we learn, interact, and engage. Just as today's leadership has transitioned to a hybrid, online environment to foster diplomatic cooperation and engagement, Model UN has evolved beyond the traditional walls of the classroom to bring students together.

COVID-19 has drastically altered the way students experience global challenges; **the pandemic has shown students and youth leaders worldwide that global problems can be found no further than just outside of their own homes**, and that the issues the world faces can touch and impact every corner of our planet. This is why Model UN is such an important activity for students to engage in today.

Virtual Model UN Conferences provide students with the opportunity to expand their perspectives and world-views, engage with students from across the globe, and discuss and debate the challenges that they've become accustomed to encountering. Whether it be the tangible impacts of the pandemic, the influx of news headlines, or the mass availability of information on social media platforms, students are more aware than ever of the issues we face today, and Virtual Model UN conferences provide them with the forum to educate themselves further about these topics and collaborate with like-minded students from around the world to consider solutions, all from the safety and comfort of their own homes.

WHAT HAPPENS AT A VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCE?

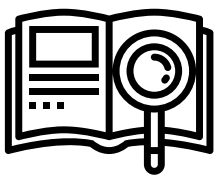


THE VIRTUAL MUN EXPERIENCE

Close your eyes and imagine this: the faces of 15-30 other diplomats appearing in front of you, poised to discuss today's global challenges. The anticipatory chatter of those other students filling up the silence around you with lively debate. The diverse colors and flags of UN Member States filling your vision. Your home is transformed into the UN General Assembly, where you, alongside other delegates, will have the ability to negotiate together to propose solutions to today's most pressing global challenges. You've just placed yourself in the Virtual MUN Experience, which brings the UN General Assembly right to your classroom or home, connects you with students from across the city, country, and world, and allows you to go beyond physical barriers to fully engage in an immersive and dynamic United Nations committee!

THE VIRTUAL MUN PROCESS

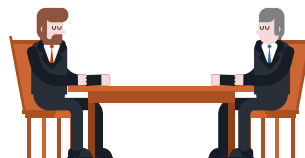
The Virtual MUN Process brings the best elements of in-person MUN to the Virtual MUN environment, and follows the same 5 stages as any in-person MUN Conference.



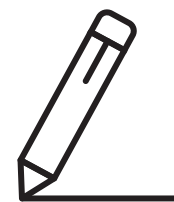
Research



Debate



Negotiate



Resolution

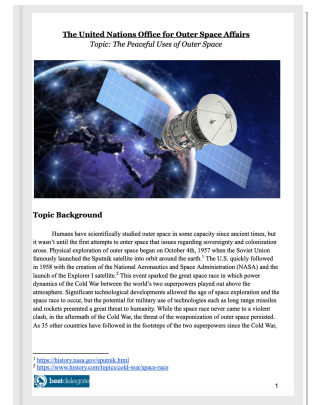


Action!

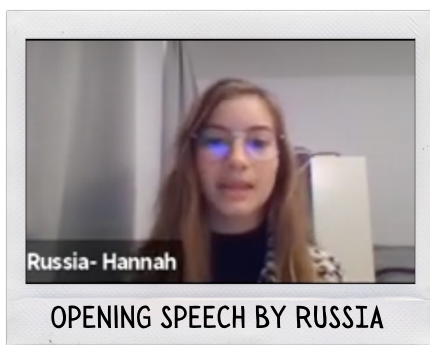
WHAT HAPPENS AT A VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCE?

BEFORE THE CONFERENCE

Students were assigned a country to represent and a topic to discuss. They read their background guide. They have researched their country and topic. They have prepared a 1 minute opening speech. Optionally, they may have submitted a "Position Paper," (if required by the conference) which is a research paper that shows exactly what they know about the topic and their assigned country. They have also researched solutions to the topic that they will suggest to the rest of the committee during debate.



MORNING SESSION

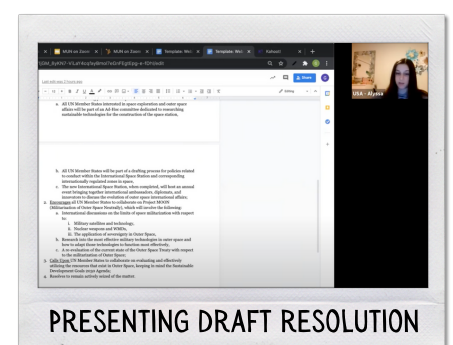


Students will log into the Zoom Platform, and meet the other delegates they will be working with during the conference. The "Chair" is the staff member leading their committee. The Chair will start with an energizer or icebreaker, to ensure that students are ready to actively engage with and participate in the Virtual MUN Platform, and explain all of the necessary Zoom Logistics to delegates. This includes the Action-Menu, Participants Tab for participation and voting, and the Chat Function for communication.

They will take Roll Call and check for audio, and then ask who wants to be on the "Speakers List." After this, delegates will deliver their opening speeches to the committee.

AFTERNOON SESSION

Groups of delegates write their resolutions on a shared, editable Google Doc and turn them into the Chair for approval. Once resolutions are approved, delegates will "Present" their resolutions by reading them and then answering questions about their solutions in an Authors' Panel, during which the Chair will have their screen shared with the resolutions. Delegates debate the resolutions and try to convince the other members of their committee that their resolution is best and to support them, and to oppose the other resolutions in their committee if they are in opposition.



VOTING PROCEDURE

The committee enters "Voting Procedure" and votes to approve or reject each resolution. Delegates can vote yes, no, or abstain from voting using the Participants Tab. After voting is finished, the committee will officially "Adjourn" to end their work. After the simulation, all of the delegates say goodbye (for now) to their new friends and gather again for "Closing Ceremonies" (if the conference is running a closing ceremony). Delegates can spend some time reflecting on the impact of their virtual MUN experience, sharing ways to keep in touch, and receiving feedback from their Chair on how to improve for future Virtual MUN Conferences!



STUDENT CHECKLIST

HOW TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES IN UNDER 3 HOURS

- ✓ Below are the recommended steps to prepare for a Virtual Model UN Conference!
- ✓ Don't stress about your first conference! Attend a guided Virtual MUN Training Conference!
- ✓ If you are attending an Advanced Conference spend extra time researching & preparing solutions!

LEARN THE BASICS OF MUN

(IN UNDER 30 MINUTES)

- Step 1: Read this Guide & Familiarize yourself with the Virtual MUN Conferences! (15 min)
- Step 2: Watch our top 6 MUN Training Videos to get more comfortable with MUN (15 minutes)

PREPARE FOR YOUR MUN COMMITTEE

(IN UNDER 2 HOURS)

- Step 3: Get Your Assigned Country & Read the Background Guide (30 minutes)
- Step 4: Research Your Committee Topic (20+ minutes)
- Step 5: Research Your Country Profile & Policy (20+ minutes)
- Step 6: Brainstorm Your Solutions (10+ Minutes)
- Step 7: Write your 1 minute Opening Speech (20+ minutes)
- Step 8: Review how to Write Resolutions (10+ minutes)

COMPLETE YOUR FINAL PREPERATION

(IN UNDER 30 MINUTES)

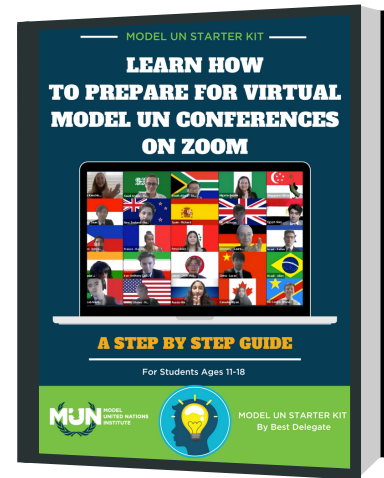
- Step 9: Prepare and Test Your Technology (10 minutes)
- Step 10: Familiarize yourself with Zoom - Practice Makes Perfect! (10 minutes)
- Have Fun!

10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 1: Read This Guide

Now that you've made the decision to begin your Virtual MUN Conference journey, this section of the guide will take you through the steps of preparing yourself to step into the shoes of world leaders, understand the issues our world is facing today, and navigate ways to negotiate with other delegates to come up with comprehensive, global solutions.

Congratulations! By reading this guide, you've successfully taken the first step of preparing for your Virtual MUN Conference!



Step 2: Watch our MUN Training Videos!

Before you even begin your research, the next step in your Virtual MUN Conference journey is to familiarize yourself with Model UN and all of the dynamic elements you'll have the opportunity to experience!

Watch the following videos from our MUN Training Video Library to learn more about Model UN and get ready to embark on the next steps in your conference preparation:

- [What is Model United Nations](#) (2 minutes)
- [MUN Research: SPEAR Framework](#) (2 minutes)
- [MUN Speech Structure: Hook, Point, Action](#) (2 minutes)
- [How to Write Model UN Resolutions](#) (5 minutes)
- [3 Tips to improve your body language \(2 minutes\)](#)
- [3 Tips to improve the Way You Sound \(2 minutes\)](#)

WHAT IS MODEL UNITED NATIONS?



MUN SPEECH STRUCTURE: HOOK, POINT, ACTION



MUN RESEARCH: SPEAR FRAMEWORK



HOW TO WRITE MODEL UN RESOLUTIONS



3 TIPS TO IMPROVE YOUR BODY LANGUAGE WHEN GIVING MUN SPEECHES



3 TIPS TO IMPROVE THE WAY YOU SOUND WHEN GIVING MUN SPEECHES



10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 3: Get Your Assigned Country and Read the Topic Background Guide

Now that you've familiarized yourself with the elements of an MUN committee, it's time to begin specifically looking at your Virtual MUN Conference journey and experience! You'll have received a country to represent from the conference staff, as well as a Background Guide that outlines the topic you're tasked with debating, addressing, and solving alongside the other delegates in your committee.

The third step in your Virtual MUN Conference journey is to read the Background Guide provided, which is typically broken down into the following sections to help frame your future research:

1. Topic Background & Introduction
2. Past International Action
3. Sub-Issues & Topics to Address
4. Possible Solutions
5. Questions to Consider & Further Reading

You should use this structure to help you organize your research moving forward and draw on the information from the Background Guide to frame your thinking on the topic, help you isolate issues you'd like to solve, and begin to brainstorm potential solutions!

Step 4: Research Your Committee Topic

While the Background Guide is an excellent step toward understanding the topic you'll be debating, in order to be successful within your Virtual MUN Committee, you should go beyond the background guide and seek to develop a deeper understanding of the global issue you're tackling. You should break your research on the topic down into two sections: issues and solutions.



To research issues related to the topic, begin by looking at the sub-issues noted in the Background Guide, and consider how those issues allow this topic to continue to be a global problem:

- Define the Problem,
- Identify the Primary Causes of the Problem,
- Consider the Effects of the Topic and How it Impacts Different Countries.

To research solutions related to the topic, begin by looking at past actions taken by the international community, which will show you potential pathways forward with your own solutions when you get to brainstorming later in this guide!

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs
Topic: The Peaceful Uses of Outer Space



Topic Background

Humans have scientifically studied outer space in some capacity since ancient times, but it wasn't until the first attempts to enter space that issues regarding sovereignty and colonization arose. Physical exploration of outer space began on October 4th, 1957 when the Soviet Union famously launched the Sputnik satellite into orbit around the earth.¹ The U.S. quickly followed in 1958 with the creation of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and the launch of the Explorer 1 satellite.² This event sparked the great space race in which power dynamics of the Cold War between the world's two superpowers played out above the atmosphere. Significant technological developments allowed the age of space exploration and the space race to occur, but the potential for military use of technologies such as long range missiles and rockets presented a great threat to humanity. While the space race never came to a violent clash, in the aftermath of the Cold War, the threat of the weaponization of outer space persisted. As 35 other countries have followed in the footsteps of the two superpowers since the Cold War,

¹ <https://history.nasa.gov/sputnik.html>

² <https://www.history.com/topics/cold-war/space-race>



10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 5: Research Your Country Profile & Policy

In a Virtual MUN Committee, your goal is to be able to step into the shoes of the leadership of your assigned country, demonstrate an understanding of the issues your country is facing, and embrace that country's perspective as you strive to find actionable solutions. In order to achieve that goal to the best of your abilities, the next step in your Virtual MUN Conference preparation journey is to research your country profile and policy. To do so, start with the following information:

- What type of **government** structure does your country have?
- Where is your country **located**?
- What does your country's **economy** look like? Is your country developed or developing?
- Who are your country's **allies**?

The Best Delegate Research Map is a fantastic resource to guide you through this step of your journey, and visually show you your country's global position as well as provide helpful links to research sources.

Once you've developed an understanding of your country profile, you're ready to begin to analyze your country's policy. As yourself the following three questions:

1. Why does this topic **matter to my country** and how does it impact us?
2. What has my country **done** about this topic?
3. What does my country **want to do** about this topic?



When you're hunting for your country policy and for solutions that your country would like to propose, you need a "SPEAR:"

- **Speeches:** What has your government said about the topic?
- **Programs:** What government programs, funds, or agencies address the topic?
- **Events:** Has your government attended any major events on the topic?
- **Agreements:** Has your government supported the major agreements on the topic?
- **Reports:** Has your government submitted any reports on the topic?

Through researching SPEARs, you'll be able to develop a clear understanding of which aspects of the topic impact your country the most and how you, as the representative of your country, can propose tangible and implementable solutions.

10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 6: Brainstorm Your Solutions

In any Virtual MUN Committee, your main goal is to work with other delegates to pass a resolution document that proposes solutions your country agrees with to the topic at hand. In order to be able to successfully propose those solutions, you should begin the sixth step in your preparation journey: brainstorming those solutions! In order to consider possible solutions, use the following process:

1. Look at the **list of issues** you've identified for the topic at hand, focusing on issues that are most relevant to your country.
2. From your **SPEARs**, figure out what **types of solutions** your **country** and the **UN** are already implementing,
3. **Analyze** the effectiveness of those **pre-existing solutions**. Are they working? Why or why not?
4. Consider how you can **expand solutions** that aren't working to solve the issues at hand, and for issues that you are unable to locate a pre-existing solution for, **create new solutions!**

Once you've brainstormed a list of potential solutions, you're ready to move forward from your research and preparation journey to hone your Virtual MUN skills and set yourself up for success!



10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 7: Write your Opening Speech!

In any MUN Conference, virtual or otherwise, **your Opening Speech is your first opportunity to share your country's policy on the topic at hand, make a positive impression, and engage the committee to listen to your ideas.** In a Virtual MUN Committee setting, a successful Opening Speech is key to your success, and through preparing an engaging and informative opening speech, you'll ensure that you immediately make an impact.

The easiest way to organize your Opening Speech, and all of your future speeches for your virtual MUN Committee, is in three parts:

- **Hook:** an engaging way to grab your audience's attention;
- **Point:** your country policy on the topic; and,
- **Action:** your possible solutions on the topic.



Hook

The beginning of a speech should grab your audience's attention – otherwise they will zone out, especially given the virtual environment. An attention-grabbing introduction is often called a “hook.” There are many different types of hooks, but here are a few common ones that work well in MUN.

- **Question:** Asking the audience a question is often an easy way to get their attention because it prompts them to think of how they might respond.
- **Quote:** Beginning with a quote is another easy way to gain attention because it prompts the audience to think how they know it.
- **Statistic:** A statistic can grab an audience's attention if it is surprising or genuinely interesting.
- **Story:** A story is the oldest form of communication and if told well, can certainly grab an audience's attention. But speeches in MUN are typically very short, so keep the story brief!

Point

The point is the purpose of your speech. It is your main message. It is your answer to the prompt. It is the reason why you're speaking. Once you have your audience's attention, you should deliver your point. State it succinctly in one sentence. MUN speeches are often short, so stick to one point. Make it significant but simple to understand. It is better to say one thing well than many things poorly. In opening speeches in MUN, the “point” is to state your country policy on the topic. Then offer 2-3 reasons explaining why your country had adopted this policy.

Action

Good speeches end with a “call to action,” which is when you tell your audience to go and do something. If your point was convincing, then your audience should be ready to do something they would not have otherwise done before. In opening speeches, a good call to action would be proposing one of your possible solutions. You want to call the committee, the United Nations, and the international community to action by adopting one of your possible solutions to the topic.

10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 8: Review How to Write Resolutions

The purpose of the United Nations is to solve global problems. Diplomats work together to develop solutions to these problems. When they've agreed on these solutions, they write them down into a written document called a resolution. At any Virtual MUN Conference, you have the same goal: to share your possible solutions with other delegates, listen to their possible solutions, decide what you agree on, and write it all into a resolution. For Virtual MUN Conferences, these resolutions will be written on a shared, editable Google Doc to ensure collaboration!

A resolution is essentially one long sentence broken down into three parts: the header, the preambulatory clauses, and the operative clauses.

Header:

- Committee: This is the name of your committee.
- Topic: This is the name of your topic.
- Sponsors: This is a list of the delegates (shown by the name of the countries they represent) who participated in writing the resolution. These delegates are the strongest supporters of the resolution. Your goal is to be a sponsor on a resolution.

Preambulatory Clauses

The preambulatory clauses state the **issues that the committee wants to resolve** on this topic. Pre-ambulatory clauses can include:

- Past UN resolutions, treaties, or conventions related to the topic,
- Past regional, non-governmental, or national efforts in resolving this topic,
- Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency, and,
- General background information on the significance of the topic.

To write a perambulatory clause, take a statement that you want to write about (perhaps an issue you want to solve or a specific fact from one of the bullet points above). You then take that statement, combine it with a preambulatory phrase, and end it with a comma.

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses state the **solutions to resolve the issues**. The operative clauses should address the issues specifically mentioned in the preambulatory clauses above it.

To write an operative clause, take a solution that you want to include in the draft resolution from your research. Then combine it with an underlined operative phrase and end it with a semicolon (the last operative clause ends with a period). Operative clauses are also numbered.

EXAMPLE RESOLUTION



Committee: The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs

Topic: The Peaceful Uses of Outer Space

Sponsors: China, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, United Kingdom, United States of America

Resolution 1.1.

The United Nations Office for Outer Space Affairs,

Write Preambulatory Clauses below. Use this word bank to choose preambulatory phrases.

Alarmed	Having adopted	Reaffirming
Approving	Keeping in mind	Realizing
Aware of	Noting	Recalling
Concerned	Observing	Recognizing

Keeping in mind the principles of the Outer Space Treaty (1968), which serves as the foundation for international space law,

Noting the potential of Outer Space and related resources for the betterment of international society,

Alarmed by the potential militarization of Outer Space,

Write Operative Clauses below. Use this word bank to choose operative phrases.

Approves	Emphasizes	Reminds
Authorizes	Encourages	Requests
Calls upon	Endorses	Supports
Considers	Recommends	Takes note of

- Encourages the establishment of Project STAR (Strategic Technology for Acquiring Resources):
 - All UN Member States will collaborate to research effective and sustainable technologies for utilizing and gathering resources in Outer Space,
 - International experts, innovators, and leading scientists will be called upon to publish reports on the conditions in Outer Space and how to adapt contemporary technology,
 - Countries will be limited as to the amount of resources they can acquire from Outer Space to ensure sustainability and equal access;
- Calls Upon UN Member States to host an annual meeting on the International Space Station to do the following:
 - Update the Outer Space Treaty annually to reflect current technologies and space standards,
 - Update the Moon Treaty and other pre-existing Outer Space Treaties,
 - Re-evaluate the principles of sovereignty and militarization in Outer Space;
- Recommends the establishment of International Space Sustainability Day to raise awareness of Outer Space efforts and remind the international community of the goals of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda as related to conduct in Outer Space.

10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 9: Review the 20 Key Terms from Model UN

The first time doing Model United Nations may seem confusing for your students and you may not understand all of the jargon used in Model United Nations. Fortunately, understanding Model United Nations is pretty easy if you know the most important and commonly used terms.

GENERAL TERMS

1. The Chair: The chair or chairs are seated in the front with their gavel and facilitate the debate. They call on speakers, time speeches, and maintain the rules of procedure. If the conference gives awards, they will also evaluate your performance.

2. The Delegate: A delegate is a person sent to a conference to represent a group of people or a country. In Model UN participants are referred to as delegates since they each represent a different country and their government.

3. Decorum: order in committee. The chair may call decorum if delegates are loud or disrespectful, to ask for their attention during committee.

4. Motion: a specific action made by delegates to direct debate in a certain direction.

5. Speaker's List: a list that contains the order of speakers in the committee. The specific way that the order is determined varies by conference. The Speaker's List is the default format of debate and committee will proceed with speeches until a delegate makes a motion to change up the debate format.

6. Yield: this is when a speaker decides to give up the remaining time in his or her speech.

7. Placard: this is the large name card that the delegate usually has so the chair can easily read their name and call on them.



POINTS THAT CAN BE RAISED



8. Point of Inquiry: when a delegate has a question about something that is not understood in committee they raise their placard and ask a Point of Inquiry.

9. Point of Personal Privilege: when a delegate experiences personal discomfort that hinders their ability to participate in committee they raise their placard and ask a Point of Personal Privilege. Examples: temperature of room, distractions during committee, can't hear another delegate, etc.

10. Point of Order (also called Point of Parliamentary Procedure): when a delegate believes that the chair made a mistake made regarding the rules of procedure and they raise their placard to make a point of order

KEY TERMS CONTINUED

CAUCUS TERMS

11. Moderated Caucus: A debate format that allows delegates to make short comments on a specific sub-issue. Typically, delegates who are interested in speaking will raise up their placards and the Chairs will call on delegates to speak one at a time. In order to move into a moderated caucus, the motion must include the overall speaking time, the time per speaker, and the sub-issue to be discussed. Example motion: Italy moves for a 5 minute moderated caucus with 30 second speaking time per delegate for the purpose of discussing renewable energy.

12. Unmoderated Caucus: a debate format where delegates move around and talk freely and informally. This is usually when delegates find allies and work on draft resolutions. Example motion: Senegal moves for an unmoderated caucus for 10 minutes.

13. Blocs: different groups that have similar ideas and opinions about the topics. In the real United Nations, there are regional blocs, but delegates can choose to build their own blocs in Model UN based on having a similar country policy and solutions to address the problem. These blocs will typically work together to create a draft resolution.



RESOLUTION WRITING TERMS

14. Resolution: The goal of committee is to pass a resolution. A resolution is a document that outlines the problems and past international actions associated with a topic and most importantly it includes solutions to solve the global issue.

15. Working paper: Working papers are just a list of ideas formed by the blocs. They may or may not be written in resolution format. The working paper needs to be approved by the chairs.

16. Draft Resolution: A document written in resolution format, approved by the chairs, and introduced to committee but not yet voted upon is called a draft resolution. Delegates will be spending most of their time writing and amending the draft resolutions. Once a draft resolution is passed by a committee, then it becomes a Resolution.

17. Sponsors: delegates who authored the draft resolution or actively contributed ideas. They support the draft resolution and want to see it get passed, so they should vote for it.

18. Signatories: delegates who wish to see the draft resolution debated but may or may not agree with all of the ideas. However, they think there is some merit to it and want to see it presented.

19. Pre-ambulatory clauses: statements in the first section of the draft resolution that describes the problems that the committee wants to solve as well as previous measures taken to combat the problem. Pre-ambulatory clauses are usually italicized or underlined by not numbered.

20. Operative clauses: statements in the second section of the draft resolution that outlines the solutions the sponsors wish to implement. Operative clauses are usually numbered and underlined.

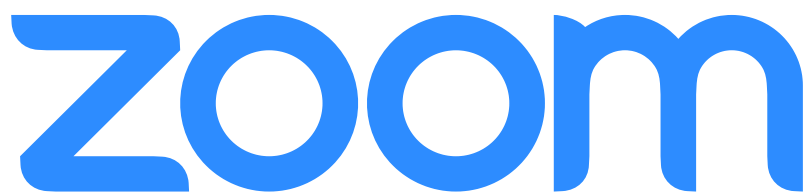
10 STEPS TO PREPARE FOR VIRTUAL MUN CONFERENCES

Step 10: Set up Your Technology

When it comes to Virtual MUN Conferences, ensuring that your technology is as prepared as you are is key to your ability to engage in committee. You should begin by thinking of the necessary elements to set up your technology, and then take into account our top technology tips to ensure your success!

Setting Up Your Technology:

- **Figure out the best way to download and access the Zoom Platform:**
 - Your school might have a pre-existing relationship with Zoom that grants you access to unlimited Zoom time. Alternatively, if your school does not provide you with Zoom access, follow these steps:
 - Sign up for a Zoom account: <https://zoom.us/ent?zcid=2582>
 - Download the Zoom desktop application for your computer
 - If you are using Zoom from an internet browser, take the following suggestions into account:
 - **Use Google Chrome**, which has a more stable connection when using Zoom
 - Ensure that you are in **close proximity to your Wifi Router**
 - If you are experiencing internet difficulties, reboot your router and test your internet speed. The optimal internet download speed is anywhere from 12 to 25 Mbps
 - **Minimize the number of tabs** you have running in the background and pay attention to your bandwidth use
 - Minimize interference from other devices, including cellphones
- **Download the latest version of Zoom** to ensure you have access to all of the latest features and settings
- **Ensure you have both a laptop and charger ready** for the start of your Virtual MUN committee
- Test out your headphones and your microphone to make sure that you can hear others and that you can be heard while you deliver your speeches
- If your computer doesn't have a camera, see if you can gain access to one to improve your ability to participate

The Zoom logo is displayed in a large, bold, blue, lowercase sans-serif font.

SETTING UP YOUR TECHNOLOGY FOR VIRTUAL MODEL UN

When it comes to Virtual MUN Conferences, ensuring that your technology is as prepared as you are is key to your ability to engage in committee. You should begin by thinking of the necessary elements to set up your technology, and then take into account our top technology tips to ensure your success!

Top Technology Tips:

- **Ensure you're in a quiet room** while participating in your Virtual MUN Committee
- **Adjust the lighting** in your room to create as much light as you can, and avoid sitting directly in front of a window to avoid backlighting
- **Frame your video** using one of the following methods:
 - Sitting with your waste-up visible
 - Standing at a distance from the camera
- **Silence other notifications** you may receive on your device, including calls and texts so they don't interrupt your speaking
- **Test your technology!** Practice makes perfect, especially when it comes to perfecting the elements of virtual MUN :)



Troubleshooting Steps:

In the case you experience technological difficulties when joining and participating in your Virtual MUN Conferences, follow these steps to troubleshoot those difficulties:

- **Arrive 5-10 minutes before your committee** start time to see if you may encounter any technological troubles
- **Turn your mic and/or camera off and on again** if either seems to be glitching
- Leave the “room” and **re-enter**
- Try joining from a **different browser**
- **Restart your computer** and rejoin the “room”



TOP TIPS FOR STANDING OUT IN VIRTUAL MODEL UN

Virtual MUN Committees are an incredibly new opportunity for students, and one that comes with a whole host of new methods for engagement, dynamic interaction, and ways to use the virtual format and environment to your advantage! **The following tips have been crafted by our Virtual MUN expert Chairs and delegates to help you stand out from the Zoom grid during each and every one of your Virtual MUN Committees.**

Tip #1: Use Virtual Backgrounds to Level-Up Your Country Representation!



Zoom, as an online platform, provides a ton of fun and creative ways to consider getting into the spirit of representing your country, starting off with virtual backgrounds! While in in-person MUN, you may be used to having a placard that you can decorate to show off your country's flag, in virtual MUN, **you can simply change your virtual background to your country's flag** to step into the shoes of leading diplomats! In order to change your virtual background to your country's flag, simply hover over the "Stop Video" icon on Zoom, select "Choose Virtual Background," and upload an image of your country's flag to frame your Zoom video!

Tip #2: Consider How to Sound like a World Leader Over Zoom (Quality)!



In Virtual MUN Committees, your speeches have far more of an impact on and relevance to your performance as a delegate, and you should consider how to alter your speeches to best fit with the Zoom setting. This brings us to our second pro-tip: **focus on the quality of your speeches, specifically on how to sound like a world leader** given the virtual Zoom environment. You should begin by watching "3 Tips to Improve the Way You Sound when Giving MUN Speeches," and from there, consider the following elements of sound:

- **Slow down your speaking** to make it easier to follow and to focus on quality over quantity (pacing).
- **Use elements of tone** to maximize the engagement of each of your speeches and ensure that the audience is listening to you!
- **Be aware of your input volume**, and ensure that the volume of your speech can be heard by other delegates in the committee.

TOP TIPS FOR STANDING OUT IN VIRTUAL MODEL UN

Tip #3: Consider How to Look like a World Leader Over Zoom!



Aside from how to sound like a World Leader over Zoom, we also have some tips on how to **look like a World Leader** in a virtual MUN setting, which will help you to achieve greater success in your virtual MUN journey! You should begin by watching “3 Tips to Improve Your Body Language When Giving MUN Speeches,” focusing on the elements related to hand gestures. After you’ve done that, think about the following elements of sight:

- **Look directly into the camera** as you deliver your speech to boost your engagement with the audience! If you typically read off of notes for your speeches, have those notes typed out so you can read them off of your computer screen.
- **Position your camera so your upper body and hands are visible** while you are sitting up straight and delivering your speech. This will also allow you to most effectively use hand gestures to your advantage!
- **Dress to impress**, including country flag or UN lapel pins if you have them handy.
- **Smile and be emotive** so you can develop positive connections with the other delegates in the Zoom Room!

Tip #4 Raise Your Virtual Hand and Bring the Positive Energy!



Our final tip when it comes to standing out in a Virtual MUN Committee is to **constantly raise your virtual hand and bring positive energy!** Zoom fatigue is something being felt by students and educators alike across the country and world today, and by constantly raising your virtual hand, engaging with all aspects of the committee, and bringing positive energy to the Zoom Platform, you’ll make a lasting impression and impact on your Chair as well as your fellow delegates. MUN is FUN, and allow that passion to shine through the virtual committee format!

ATTEND VIRTUAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCES BY BEST DELEGATE

The Virtual Model United Nations Conferences (VMUNC) are for high school and middle school students (ages 11-18) who want to participate in world-class Model UN conference experiences from the comfort of home.

Best Delegate Virtual Conferences



Bring Out the Best

We bring out the best in our students through a chairing style that prioritizes active participation, encouragement, and feedback.



Experienced Chairs

Our Chairs are among the best Model UN staffers at the college level and are very experienced in running virtual Model UN committees.



Relevant Topics

We've selected topics that reflect global issues and current events so students can research and understand the world around them.



Small Committees

Our small committees of 20 to 30 students each enable students to make more speeches and work more closely together.



Low Cost

Get world-class Chairs and Background Guides, a Certificate of Completion, and eligibility to win Awards -- all for the low fee of \$25.



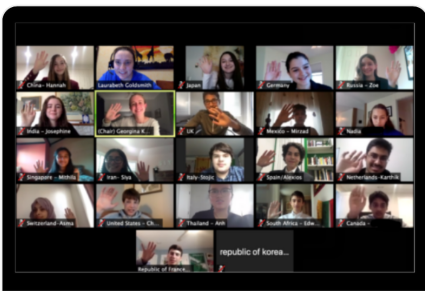
Make New Friends

This is the place to meet other passionate Model UN delegates and make new friends from around the country and the world.

**VISIT [LEARNMODELUN.COM](https://www.learnmodelun.com)
TO REGISTER TODAY!**

THOUGHTS ON VMUNC FROM STUDENTS & EDUCATORS

While Virtual MUN Conferences and Committees are a relatively new and quickly expanding opportunity for students, we've already seen first-hand how successful, engaging, fun, and dynamic these committees are for everyone who participates! Virtual Model UN Conferences provide students with a forum to hone their research, debate, negotiation, and writing skills, while also giving them a platform to challenge themselves to discuss today's most pressing challenges. But, rather than hear more from us on how dynamic Virtual MUN is, here are some thoughts from students and advisors who have already participated in our Virtual MUN Conferences!



Thank you so much for today's conference. My students really enjoyed it, and it was so organized and well run. The Chairs were great and so patient to the students. I'm sure they are so tired!



— ZAKIA, ADVISOR



One of the things that I enjoyed most is the fact that as the debates carried on, I was able to step out of my comfort zone, despite never doing MUN before!



— SKY, STUDENT



My favorite part of the conference was the debate, and other than that meeting so many people from a bunch of different places was amazing. I'm looking forward to more conferences in the future!!!!



— AMELIA, STUDENT

