MUN Research Guide

Research Categories:

1. Country
2. Topics/Issues
3. IGO(Inter-Governmental Organization)/ Committee

How to Research for Conferences:

1. Start with getting an overview
   1. KNOW YOUR COUNTRY
      1. Have the basics for reference- type of government, population, geography, regional bodies your country is a part of (AU, EU, ASEAN, etc.)
   2. KNOW YOUR COUNTRY’S POLICIES
      1. Where does your country currently stand on the topic (their *position*)
      2. Look for past legislation concerning the topic/ what your country has done in the past about your topic
2. Get other facts(White Paper)
   1. Allies and Adversaries
      1. Create a list of countries yours has historically worked with or who yours has historically been in opposition with
      2. Also add to your list countries you could be aligned with based on similarities in government, religion, geography, regional groupings, etc.
      3. Look for countries you have trade alliances with, as all though you may have differing view, that may be a country you don’t want to vote against; similarly you will probably not want to work with countries you have current military conflicts
      4. Consider economy- a developing country with probably want to make allies with a developed country; two developed countries might make a good pairing as well
   2. Be familiar with what your committee has jurisdiction over
   3. List of must haves in a resolution vs. points you are willing to compromise on
3. Consider possible solutions to the problem- You should spend the majority of your time doing this compared to the other aspects of research
   * 1. REMEMBER- You CANNOT have a resolution preplanned

Position Papers:

1. Divide the Paper into three sections:
   1. Background: Brief overview of the issue
      1. This is where topic research comes into play
   2. Current Situation- Describe your country’s status, and how the issue affects your country
      1. This is where country research comes into play
   3. Stance/Possible Solutions- What your country has done to combat the issue, and what your country proposes to solve the issue
      1. Past International Action, Possible Solutions
   4. Make sure to include a works cited at the end
   5. Have a cover page with a picture of your country’s flag, your school, your country, your committee, and you and your partner’s name

Research Binders:

1. Load research binders with your research, papers, and any reference documents you may need
2. Make sure to include sticky notes and a notepad for conference

NOTES:

* You may have multiple topics- you may not need two position papers, but you can- make sure you research BOTH topics fully
* You can set up Google alerts to be altered when any news comes up on your topic or common MUN conferences
* There are two types of papers-
  + Position paper- formal paper that you will submit to the chair, with a BRIEF country overview and the bulk being a breakdown of countries position on topic(s); infer proposals for potential resolutions (don’t have set resolutions)
  + White paper- this is a paper for your eyes, include list of allies and adversaries, and a list of must haves in a resolution and points you will compromise on; add any research you would like to have available
* In Position Paper don’t delve too much into your country’s history that DOES NOT pertain to the conference.
* STAY ORGANIZED
* CITE YOUR SOURCES