

MODEL UN CRISIS KIT PART 3

HOW TO FRAME DEBATE

LEVEL: For Intermediate MUN Delegates, Ages: 14 - 18



Public Speaking Strategy: Framing Debate

In crisis committees, debate is usually conducted as a continuous moderated caucus (usually with one minute speaking time), with delegates moving for different specific topics for debate related to the crisis.

This means two things:

1. Don't be that delegate that moves for a moderated caucus to "further debate"- that's not a topic, and your Chair will often frown upon it.
2. You can use moderated caucuses to make the committee focus on the parts of the crisis most related to your solutions or your portfolio, or to avoid topics you aren't willing to discuss.

Use moderated caucuses to keep debate in the areas of the topic that you're strong with, and present your solutions as the main solutions to these sub-issues. During moderated caucuses, advanced delegates may do something like the following to "frame" the debate in a way that is favorable to themselves.

Committee: Winston Churchill's WWII War Cabinet

Moderated Caucus Topic: Aid to Vichy France

Minister of Economic Warfare: "It seems like the committee is in agreement that intelligence sharing and signals interception are the most critical sub-issues of this topic for our committee to address. I would like to draw the committee's attention to the directive "Just Turing Paris" which in detail addresses intercepting and decrypting German troop marching orders and supplying Vichy France with critical information to survive this war, and we encourage the entire committee to come on board with these solutions and commit any additional ideas you have pertaining to these issues.

Committee: Turkish Cabinet 2016

Moderated Caucus Topic: Border Security

Minister of the Interior: "As we discuss Border Security, there are two main things we should consider: intercepting weapons shipping into Syria, and managing the flow of refugees out of Syria. Both can be addressed in the directive I have submitted, "Operation Fierce Turkey", which stems the flow of refugees crossing our border through internal refugee camps, as well as leveraging UNODC and NATO resources to interdict weapons shipments into Syria. I ask all of you to join with me in supporting this directive for the betterment of this country.

Crisis Committee Rules of Procedure Tips

In a crisis committee, the Rules of Procedure tend to be much more flexible than in other committees, and your chair may make any changes they see fit to make sure the committee continues to run well. However, the normal MUN crisis committee has the following characteristics to its rules of procedure:

Continuous Moderated Caucus: Instead of a Speakers List, most of debate is conducted in moderated caucuses on different topics, so debate is flexible and you never know when your next speech will be.

Round Robins: One of the only times you wouldn't be in a moderated caucus is if somebody requests a "Round Robin"- this means that starting at one side of the room, each and every delegate in the room will deliver a statement on their stance on the issue, to get the entire committee's opinion on the issue.

Informal Voting and Introduction of Directives: The Crisis version of Resolutions, known as "Directives", don't need a formal voting procedure to be considered. Normally, a simple motion to "introduce x directive" and "vote on x directive" will do, and there will nearly never be Question and Answer sessions about directives, roll call votes, or other formalities associated with MUN Resolution Voting.

Crisis Updates: Throughout a Crisis Committee, the Crisis Staff will burst into the room and give updates on how the crisis is progressing. These can take many forms, from videos, newspaper updates, and briefings from "officials", or even acted-out scenes in the committee room. Generally, after these updates are delivered, delegates will have the opportunities to ask questions of the Crisis Staffer delivering the update to gain more information or clarify the facts of the crisis. Delegates may also be able to request outside representatives come in to deliver an update.



TIP

During Crisis Updates, sometimes the staff delivering the update will have to make up details to answer your question. What they make up now becomes part of the crisis, so if you can ask insightful enough questions, you may get them to twist the crisis in your favor!



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