



SINGAPORE MODEL UNITED NATIONS DELEGATE PREPARATION

Probably the most important role of the advisor and the delegate is to ensure that all students are adequately prepared for the SIMUN conference. To this end, students must:

1. be well versed in their assigned country's foreign policy;
2. have a broad knowledge of their committee and its work;
3. have a good understanding of the United Nations, its purposes, practices and procedures;
4. have skills involving speaking in public and listening to others' arguments;
5. demonstrate the ability to negotiate, compromise.

Research:

The more students know about their assigned nation's policies, the more readily they will be able to assume the role of delegates. This is an essential part of the SIMUN as the success of the whole exercise depends on the ability of delegates to role play being the representative of different countries around the world. It is recognized that it is easier to represent the positions of some countries as opposed to others, but, with research and persistence, it is possible to find out a great deal about most of the members of the United Nations.

How To Research Your Nation:

Start with basic facts and figures, location and past history. You can contact the local embassy or a UN body offices to find out more information about the country's recent UN activities. Finally, newspapers and weekly magazines such as *Time*, *Newsweek*, *The Economist*, and *National Geographic* will help to keep you abreast of recent and current affairs and relationships of your state with others.

Researching the United Nations and the Committees:

It is essential that all delegates know and understand the rules and regulations laid out in the procedure section of this booklet. Without this knowledge delegates are unable to function and represent their assigned countries adequately. Understanding of the United Nations itself can be gained by reading the UN Charter, looking through *A Global Agenda: Issues Before the UN* (UNA-USA) and, again, by reading newspapers and magazines.

Development of Necessary Skills for Delegates:

All students should be familiar with speaking in public and arguing their point of view if they are to achieve maximum enjoyment from participating in the SIMUN. Being a good delegate is not about "shouting the loudest" or being the most visible. It is concerned with one's ability to convince others of the rightness of one's position on issues, to compromise and to find solutions to problems which may arise in debates and resolutions. Delegates should enter the SIMUN with a positive attitude towards the world and aim to provide leadership in solving many of the simulated problems which they will face during their four days as delegates. Delegates should not see their role as rigid or negative, but be prepared to amend, remodel and merge resolutions where possible to provide answers to the challenges facing the world.

Conclusion:

Before arriving at the SIMUN all students should be able to express their basic knowledge of the UN, its procedures, their assigned countries and their role in the world today. Remember all countries, no matter how small or large, have a role to play in the SIMUN!