

Advanced Committee Ad-Hoc



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Letter From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the thirty-eighth annual Saint John's Model United Nations Conference! My name is JR Chopra, and I am thrilled to be chairing our second-ever SJMUNC Ad Hoc committee. I will be joined by Farzaad Hussain, a sophomore who has worked alongside me over the summer to bring this year's committee to life.

I am currently a senior at Saint John's, where I lead the Swim and Dive Team, Speech and Debate, and HOSA, while also serving as Chairman of the Staff Committee for SJMUN. Outside of these roles, I am a drummer with a passion for music. I have been a part of the Model UN Club since my freshman year and have attended conferences at the University of Chicago and Brown University.

As delegates in an Ad Hoc committee, you will not know the topic or your role assignments until the day before the conference—which means no position paper is required (yay!). For more information about how the committee will function, please refer to the Ad Hoc Survival Guide below. While the topic and roles will be revealed at the last minute, you should arrive ready to apply your Model UN skills to navigate this challenging and fast-paced environment effectively. We strongly encourage those registering for the Ad Hoc to have previous advanced-level Model UN experience.

What I love most about Model UN is that it encourages opposing ideologies to clash yet coexist. In today's increasingly polarized world, this activity reminds us of the importance of understanding and compromise. I am excited to see the brilliant, unique perspectives each of you will bring to the table and how they will interact throughout debate and crisis.

If you have any questions regarding procedural details or logistics, please do not hesitate to reach out to me.

Sincerely,

JR Chopra

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Ad-Hoc Survival Guide

I. How can I prepare before the conference?

A. Understand Crisis Positions

Although you cannot conduct research on your character and the committee topic a day before the conference, you can prepare for an Ad Hoc by developing a clear understanding of what a crisis position entails. In crisis committees, you take on a character to represent, and by extension, the abilities, personal history, and stances of that character within the world of the crisis. The character profile we will provide contains the basics, but you decide how your character will act in committee. Unlike a non-crisis committee, in which the background guide and relatively immutable outline of the debate topics for all committee sessions, a crisis committee grants delegates the ability to ultimately direct the flow of debate. With freedom comes responsibility. Although you can control what happens in committee, remember that your character's actions and stances must be realistic and reasonable.

B. Work on Public Speaking Skills

The beauty of Ad-Hoc lies in its extemporaneous nature. Given that you will not have the crutch of pre-written speeches, you should focus on your ability to articulate a well-crafted, persuasive argument on the spot. Ensure that your stances are purposeful, can be backed with logical rationale, and contribute to productive dialogue.

C. Practice Writing Crisis Notes

This committee will have a staffed backroom, so crisis notes play a significant role in advancing debate. Your notes may be rejected or sent back with a suggestion/question by crisis, so write

them thoughtfully. More information about the logistics of crisis notes is later in this document, but remember that a successful crisis note is...

- Within your character's jurisdiction. Your character's actions should align with the powers outlined in your character profile. Additionally, your note should be written from your character's perspective and addressed to a specific person.
- Specific. Be precise in directly outlining the particular mechanisms of your desired action. The crisis team should be able to carry out your request without doing the mental gymnastics of entirely orchestrating it for you.
- Relevant. Aim to target problems and make requests pertinent to the committee's flow. For example, starting a lemonade stand may not be in your best interest as a minister of trade. Develop a crisis arc while ensuring you stay focused on the committee at large.

II. How will the in-room committee work?

A. Flow of Debate

Ad Hoc committees function as a continuous moderated caucus with no set topic, and there will be no speakers list during committee. The chair sets the initial speaking time, but delegates can motion to change it at any time. Motions for modifications to the debate format, such as unmoderated caucuses and round robins, may be passed by the committee if they are at the chair's discretion.

B. Notes

The dais staff will be accepting crisis notes to be reviewed by the Crisis Director. Notes to other delegates can be passed at any time. Crisis notes, or personal directives, are private and submitted directly to the dais staff, who will periodically collect them during committee and

deliver them to the Crisis Director for review. Leave enough space at the bottom of your note for staff to include comments or a response. Once your note is returned, you may submit a new personal directive.

C. Crisis Updates

Crisis updates may interrupt or terminate ongoing moderated caucuses. At the discretion of the backroom, elements from committee actions (crisis notes, public announcements, debates, passed committee directives) will dictate events reported in crisis updates. Parts of crisis notes may be integrated into crisis updates without revealing their source.

D. Directives and Voting

Unlike crisis notes/personal directives, committee directives are passed by the entire committee. Since they are co-signed by multiple delegates who can combine their powers, they have a more enormous scope than personal directives. Pre-written clauses are strictly forbidden, and in alignment with SJMUNC's official policy on plagiarism, you and your delegation may face future conferences if any plagiarism is detected.

If you have any questions or concerns about anything ad-hoc-related, please contact me via email; I will be happy to hear from you and respond as soon as possible!