

# Advanced Committee Ad-Hoc



# SJMUNC XXXVII

Saint John's Model United Nations Conference

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# Letter From the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the thirty-seventh annual Saint John's Model United Nations Conference. My name is Omkar Vaddi, and I am thrilled to be chairing our Innagural SJMUNC Ad-Hoc. I will be joined by Sophomore Aarav Jain, who has helped me put together this year's committee over the summer. I am a Senior at Saint John's, participating and competing in Model UN, Robotics, Deca, and Volleyball. I have been a member of the Model UN Club since my freshman year and have attended conferences at the Univeristy of Chicago and Brown. I am the Co-Vice President of the club and the Co-Secretary General of this year's Conference!

As delegates of an Ad Hoc, you will not know anything about the topic and your role assignments until a day before the conference (thus, there is no need to write a position paper– yay!). For more details about how the committee will function, refer to the Ad Hoc Survival Guide below. Although you will not know anything about the topic and your role before the conference, you should feel comfortable with the skills required to navigate an Ad Hoc committee effectively. It will be a challenging, fast-paced Saturday, but most importantly, the crisis team and I will strive to make it an enjoyable, rewarding experience for all. We urge those registering for the Ad-Hoc to have previous advanced-level Model UN experience.

What I love most about MUN is that it encourages opposing ideologies to clash yet coexist– in an increasingly polarized world, this activity reminds us to seek understanding and compromise. I know each of you will bring brilliant, fascinating, and unique perspectives to the table, and I look forward to hearing how they interact. Please email me if you have questions regarding procedural details!

Sincerely,  
Omkar Vaddi ([vaddio25@stjohnshigh.org](mailto:vaddio25@stjohnshigh.org))

# 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

You will be given two notepads at the start of the committee. Notes to other delegates can be passed at any time. Crisis notes, or personal directives, are private and submitted to the backroom using the two-notepad system: at most, one of your notepads can be in the backroom at a time. A crisis staffer will periodically pick up notepads during committee, and crisis staffers will address your note as promptly as possible. Leave enough space at the bottom of your note for a staff member to write a response. After your notepad is returned, you may submit a new personal directive with the other one.

## 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 or conference-related, please contact me via email; I will be happy to hear from you and respond as soon as possible!