

How to prepare for your Security Council debate

You will soon be representing a country on the UN Security Council. Working with others, you will develop a UN resolution on how to make the ideals of the Olympic Truce a reality. The information and tips below will help you prepare for your role.



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WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF THE SECURITY COUNCIL SIMULATION?

This debate will be a Model United Nations. In Model UN, you get to step into the shoes of world leaders and experience what it is like to tackle the most pressing issues facing the world.

Model UN is very popular and there are many different types of debates and conferences – some lasting for days! In this lesson, you will take part in a ‘mini’ Model UN, adapted for the classroom. Your aim is to represent a country on the UN Security Council and to work with your fellow ambassadors to produce a resolution on the Olympic Truce. ‘Resolution’ is the term used for the formal text of a UN decision.

WHAT IS THE FORMAT OF THE SIMULATION?

You will be:

- Representing your allocated country as its ambassador at the UN
- Presenting your country’s position to the rest of the class
- Debating, as a class, the issues raised by you and your fellow ambassadors

- Working in small groups to come up with a draft resolution
- Presenting your resolutions to the rest of the class
- Voting on which resolution(s) to adopt

WHAT IS YOUR ROLE DURING THE SIMULATION?

Together with your partner, you will be representing one of the 15 states on the Security Council. For this lesson, the following countries will be represented:

- The five states that are permanently on the Security Council and hold vetoes: China, France, Russia, the UK and the USA
- Ten non-permanent members: Brazil, Egypt, India, Iran, Israel, Japan, Nigeria, Pakistan, South Africa and Turkey.

You will deliver a presentation on your country’s position and then work with other country ambassadors to produce a UN resolution on the Olympic Truce that is acceptable to all the countries on the Security Council.

Lesson five

HOW TO PREPARE YOUR PRESENTATION

Your teacher will let you know which country you are representing and will give you a country profile. Once you have read your profile, you should prepare a position paper (see the box below for tips) explaining your country's position on the issue you are discussing.

You will be presenting this paper to your class, like an ambassador presenting his or her position to the UN Security Council. You will have only 1–2 minutes to present. You should decide with your partner who will deliver the presentation (you may wish to split it between you).

Your paper should include:

- A brief introduction to your country
- Your country's views on the Olympic Truce
- Any action your country has taken in relation to the Olympic Truce (including any speeches made by your country's leaders)
- Your country's ideas on a UN resolution on the Olympic Truce

You can use some of the ideas you came up with when completing worksheet 5.2.

Here are some tips to help you prepare:

1. Get to know your country

Start with your country profile and do some further research. Think about:

- Your country's views and concerns
- Whether your country is involved in internal or external conflicts
- How your country views the other 14 states that will be represented
- The latest news from your country (e.g. is there an election looming?) as this might influence your views.

2. Refresh your knowledge

Revisit worksheets 5.1 and 5.2 to refresh your knowledge of the Olympic Truce and the UN Security Council. Make sure you know about the different powers of permanent and non-permanent Security Council members.

3. Think about what your resolution should say

Here are some ideas:

- Would your country support a ceasefire or negotiations to end ongoing armed conflicts?
- Does your country believe that internal conflicts should be included in the resolution?

- Does your country believe that extra support for UN peacekeeping, human rights or poverty relief would help achieve the Truce's aims?

Remember to approach the resolution as a country ambassador and not as yourself. If your country is involved in an armed conflict, for example, it may not want a ceasefire. If your country is having financial troubles, it may not want to give extra money to UN peacekeeping.

4. Get in character!

You will be taking on the role of a country ambassador. Get in character and respect the following rules:

- Do not say 'I believe' or 'in my opinion'. You should say 'Brazil believes' or 'Brazil's view is'.
- Only one ambassador can speak at a time. To request permission to speak from the Chair (your teacher), you should raise your country placard, which you will receive on the day, and wait to be recognised by the Chair.
- UN resolutions are forged through compromise. You should represent your country's view but be prepared to negotiate so that you come up with a resolution that is acceptable to all countries. Remember that the entire Council will vote for the resolutions and that permanent members have vetoes.



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