Resolution-Writing

A simple guide for our MUN-ers

Introduction

The **resolution** is the most important of all the documents you will write in MUN, as well as the most complex. As policy debate (Day 1) draws to an end, you will be expected to form blocs or groups based on shared ideas for a resolution. During **lobbying & merging** (end of Day 1 to beginning of Day 2) your group will draft your resolution, submitting it to the **Advisory Panel** of teachers.

Essentially, the resolution is one gigantic sentence that outlines a series of steps towards a solution that you are proposing to your committee.

Typically, each resolution consists of **pre-ambulatory clauses** and **operative clauses**. These terms are defined below.

The resolution in its entirety should not exceed 4 pages.

In the **Security Council**, **UNA-USA** style is used rather than the more common **THIMUN** style. For Security Council delegates, each is expected to submit at least one operative clause to either of the issues in debate. You will write one resolution per topic altogether as one committee. Refer to the Official QISSMUN Guide to the UNA-USA Style for more information about UNA-USA procedures.

Roles

A resolution group consists of the:

◦ **Main-Submitter** (or Main Speaker)
The main submitter is the de-facto leader of the group, usually your most assertive or persuasive speaker. He/she must be dependable, confident, and a good teammate. The job description consists of:
- managing the resolution-drafting process
- taking the resolution to the Advisory Panel
- introducing the resolution to the committee and presenting a speech (given 5 minutes in total)
- lobbying for other delegates' support

◦ **Co-Submitter**
The co-submitter(s) back up the main-submitter. Some committees only allow one; others may allow up to three. The job description consists of:
- assisting the main-submitter in organization and lobbying
- presenting a speech when the main-submitter yields the floor (the 5 minutes also account for the duration of the co-submitters' speeches)

Structure and Formatting

Heading

Pre-Ambulatory clauses

Operative Clauses
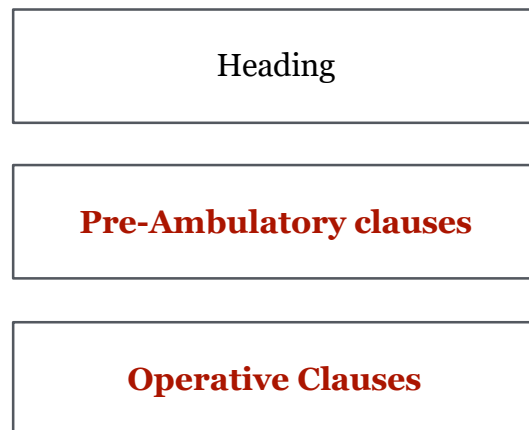
All words should be in Times New Roman font, size 12, and single-spaced. Document margins should be at 1 inch, or 2.54 cm, on all sides.

Heading

The correct heading goes as follows:

COMMITTEE:
TOPIC:
MAIN SUBMITTER:
CO-SUBMITTER:
SPONSORS:

The heading is located at the top left corner of the first page of your resolution document. Note that the words are capitalized, bolded, and single-spaced.

Pre-ambulatory Clauses

The pre-ambulatory clauses serve to answer why the topic is important to solve. Setting the scene, they altogether give a background of the topic, much like the A paragraph in the position paper. They are the call to action.

A few clauses are enough; there is no need to go overboard with these. Their purpose lies in cultivating the sense of urgency that the issue deserves.

Please include at least one of each:
- Statistics or numbers to reflect the magnitude of the issue
- Reference to previous international efforts (of the UN or other agencies)

Pre-ambulatory phrases are always <u>underlined</u>, and must begin each pre-ambulatory clause. A <u>list of these phrases</u> is always helpful to keep nearby. Examples include:

- Bearing in mind
- Acknowledging
- Deeply concerned
- Noting
- Alarmed by
- Recalling
- Reaffirming
- Underscoring
- Welcoming

Each clause is separated by a *comma* and followed by an empty line. The last clause ends with *semi-colon*, which transitions into the **operative clauses**.

Operative Clauses

Operative clauses make up the brunt of the resolution, naming *how*. They lay down systematically the plan you believe is the most practical. Reflecting action, they include the ideas that were hinted at in your C Paragraphs of the position paper.

There is not set number of operative clauses required, but the main priority is for you to explain each of these steps as specifically and clearly as possible. Write as you see fit. Be pertinent, detailed, and thorough.

It is also helpful to have <u>a list of **operative phrases**</u>. They too are <u>underlined</u> and begin each operative clause. Examples include:

- Encourages
- Supports
- Invites
- Further invites
- Approving
- Requests
- Calls
- Urges
- Stresses

Operative clauses are numbered and separated by *semi-colons*. The last clause ends with a *period*, concluding the resolution.

You may have up to sub-sub clauses; there will be no sub-sub-sub clauses.

1. Operative clauses, for clarity's sake, can branch into**:**
   a. a sub-clause**,**
   b. and a second sub-clause because there must be **at least two**, or else the single sub-clause merges into the main clause**,**
   c. you can also have**:**
      i. a sub-sub clause**,**
      ii. and a second sub-sub clause because the same rule applies**;**

Please note the proper punctuation.

A Word on Signatories

Signatories are a signed agreement to listen to your resolution proposal. You must collect signatories from usually 7-13 other delegates, depending on the size of your committee. Your chairs will notify you at the beginning of lobbying & merging.

Signatory delegates are not required to vote for the said resolution. It is only an expression of willingness to give the resolution group the floor and hear them speak.

What to Cover

A good resolution is not simply one that uses formal language and follows the format meticulously. The subsequent list is just the beginning of how to make your resolution outstanding:

- must effectively solve the problem
- be clear and extremely detailed
- consider the financial concerns in execution and consequence
- consider time: must be prompt, durable, with no long-term repercussions
- proposals must be made available to common civilians or those in need
- promote transparency
- must be objective and impartial to minimize any controversies
- meet the needs of Less Economically Developed Countries (LEDCs)
- use of any NGOs or other agencies must be inspected for efficiency

Conclusion

To read an exemplary example of a resolution, refer to the link titled *Resolution Example*, given on the Resources page of the QISSMUN website.

For further information on how to write a resolution:
- http://bestdelegate.com/model-un-made-easy-how-to-write-a-resolution/
- http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/resolutions/sample-resolution
- https://www.helpmymun.com/preambulatory-operative-clauses/

Good luck!