

# UNA-USA Style

A simple guide for our MUN-ers

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## Introduction

UNA-USA stands for the United Nations Association of the USA. The challenge of this style of debate lies in that its procedures allow for fiercer competition between delegates or blocs.

It differs from the more common THIMUN style in a few ways:

- no policy debate
- no lobbying & merging
- usually no devices
- no pre-written speeches
- no pre-written clauses/draft resolutions
- no permanent schedule or structure
- no need for podium

However, procedure for amendments, voting, and resolution-writing still follows THIMUN procedure.

This style will be used in QISSMUN's Security Council.

## How It Operates

If there is no set schedule, what drives the debate forward?

### Motions.

After roll call, a motion to set the agenda will initiate the debate. The speakers list will be opened.

Motions can change the mode of debate from **formal** to **informal debate** and vice versa. Informal debate can be characterized as either a moderated caucus or unmoderated caucus.

Such motions are critical in creating an atmosphere of competition and effective debate.

Roll Call

Setting the Agenda

Opening the  
Speakers List

Motions Entertained

Resolutions Drafted

Voting Procedures

## Formal Debate

Formal debate revolves around a speakers list. It can be likened to policy debate. When held before *caucusing*—which refers to convening informally to draft a resolution—formal debate is the best medium for opening speeches, which clarify country positions.

If held after caucusing, formal debate tends to focus on bloc positions and draft resolutions.

If a draft resolution is introduced to the committee, formal debate may be used to entertain “for” and “against” speeches on amendments.

A speaker’s time is usually set between 60 and 90 seconds. Any remaining time can be yielded to points of information, back to the chairs, or to another delegate.

## Moderated Caucus

To move the committee into a session of moderated caucus, use: “Motion to suspend debate and move into [*time*] minutes of moderated caucus addressing [*topic*], with a speaker’s time of [*time*] seconds.”

Note that the length of the session, the topic addressed, and the speaker’s time must be specified in the motion.

During this type of informal debate, delegates wishing to speak simply raise their placards; a speakers list is not kept. The chairs will call on one delegate at a time to present a speech. The podium is not used; delegates stand at their respective seats to maximize efficiency.

Keep in mind that all speeches must address the topic stated in the motion. The point is to be brief and clear, with one or two key ideas.

Points of information will be entertained.

## Unmoderated Caucus

To move the committee into a session of unmoderated caucus, use: “Motion to move into [*time*] minutes of unmoderated caucus to address [*topic*].”

This second type of informal debate is very similar to lobbying & merging. Delegates come together in blocs to create a **draft resolution**.

In the Security Council, each delegate is required to submit, as in sponsor or co-sponsor, at least one operative clause.

The resolution-writing process of the UNA-USA style is subject to the same principles as is that of the THIMUN style. However, the pre-ambulatory clauses are written by your chairs in the Security Council, and you as a committee write a single resolution.

Unmoderated caucuses are perfect for efficient communication, facilitating negotiation, compromise, and amendments.

## Resolution Debate

Resolution debate in the Security Council, according to the UNA-USA style, goes as follows. Delegates discuss in unmoderated caucus and write up a clause. The clause is submitted to the chairs, and the order that they are submitted in correlates to the order that they are debated.

The submitter of each clause presents the clause to the committee as a whole. Points of information, and then a session of “for” or “against” speeches, are entertained.

Amendments must be proposed and submitted to the chairs quickly; once debate on a particular clause culminates in voting procedure, no more amendments on that clause may be entertained. Each amendment and clause follows the same voting procedures as THIMUN style.

The final resolution is debated on as a whole once all the submitted clauses have been voted on. The debates end with a committee vote on the resolution in its entirety.

## A List of Motions

- Motion to **set the agenda**: “The country of [name] moves to place [topic A] first on the agenda, followed by [topic B].”
- Motion to **open/close speakers list**
- Motion to **suspend debate** and move into [time] minutes of **moderated caucus** addressing [topic], with a speaker’s time of [time] seconds
- Motion to move into [time] minutes of **unmoderated caucus** to address [topic]
- Motion to **move to voting procedures**
- Motion to **divide the house**

For more motions and their definitions and proper use, refer to the QISSMUN Guide to Common Points/Motions.