

MUNAIM II

Model United Nations Simulation

American Institute of Monterrey, S.C

Researching Your Topic



Once you fully researched your country, you should start researching your topic. There are three stages in this process. Each stage is followed by a brief summary of ways that this information can be obtained.

I. Background Information

As a first step you should read the background information written by your Chair before beginning your research so that you may attain a general overview of the topic, issues and controversies you will be debating. Remember that the background information that your Chair has provided is only a starting point for further research. You should base your Position Paper and debate on many sources and not just the Chair's background paper.

Important Background Information:

- Definitions which are pertinent to the topic
- What conditions led to the issue's existence?
- Research the chronological history of the topic. When did the conflict/problem/controversy started?
- How did it develop since its beginning?
- What major events contributed to the problem?
- What is the major controversy regarding the topic?
- Why is it so controversial?
- What are the major points of view regarding the topic?
- What solutions are currently being implemented to solve the problem? Have they been successful? If they have been successful, why was it? How was it? If it hasn't, why not?
- Current status of the topic

II. International Opinion

- What is the UN's opinion regarding the topic?
- Has the UN taken action to combat the problem or to resolve the controversy?
- If so, has the United Nations passed resolutions about the topic? Have any international treaties been signed regarding the topic? Have

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these resolutions and treaties worked? If so, how have their guidelines been implemented and why have they worked?

- If not, are countries of the world, international organizations (United Nations, Amnesty International, etc.), special alliances, and/or non governmental organizations that take other measures to solve the problem? Are they trying to strengthen existing treaties or resolutions?
- What have major international organizations, such as Amnesty International or NATO had to say about the topic? What actions have they taken to resolve the controversy or to solve the problem?
- What opinions do the key countries have about the topic?

III. The Country's Opinion

- What is your country's point of view regarding the topic?
- Why does it have this point of view?
- Does your country have any special laws or policies dealing with the issue?
- What do other nations think about your country's opinions and actions regarding the topic?
- Does the international community applaud, condemn, or seem indifferent to your country's policies?
- What actions has your country taken to support its opinion? Has it signed any major international treaties or resolutions?
- Has it implemented any programs within its borders to help solve a certain problem?
- Has any international organization or country ever imposed sanctions, entered your country, or have they taken other measures to make your nation comply with certain norms regarding the topic?
- Was your country cooperative with such measures? How did it cooperate? Has your country ever used such measures towards another state?
- How did the international community respond to such actions?

NOTE: Always have proof that includes copies or printouts of articles or other information useful to yourself and other to back up your positions.