



CHAIR GUIDE

JUBAIL INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL
MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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An introduction to chairing:

Chair: the committee member that moderates debate, keeps time, rules on points and motions, and enforces the rules of procedure.

Model United Nations gives us the chance to practice tolerance, celebrate diplomacy and mutual respect on an international floor. It is our opportunity to voice our opinion and to share it with the world's leaders. You have been given the unique opportunity to share this experience with other students and to encourage less experienced delegates, to open their door into politics, into diversity, into the future we create.

Chairing can be intimidating at times, especially if you have never chaired before. But it is actually really easy and enjoyable once you are in your committee and get the debate running.

What to do during the debate:

Take notes:

As a chair one should never count only on memory. Whether on laptop or paper, a short summary of what the delegates say will be very useful to measure the quality of the content as well as tracking ideas, measuring who contributed the most and to how often.

Walking and listening:

During unmoderated caucuses, any chair worth their salt are watching the room. Unmoderated caucuses is where the most important negotiations take place and to leave for coffee at that points misses what is actually happening in the room. This is where coalitions are managed and deals are made. To best keep track, I suggest taking a few notes of central things that happened.

Encouragement:

Chairing is not only about evaluating delegates or facilitating debate. It is also about finding delegates who need encouragement and giving it to them. Whether a quiet delegate, new delegates or someone who became less active, take time during lunch to see how they are doing and try to give support and encouragement.

Beware flattery:

At every Model UN, at least some of your delegates will be trying to curry favor with you. Whether it's spending extra time after session some delegates are playing the game at all levels.

For most chairs it is fine to be friendly, have fun and engage as normal but if you feel distance is the only way to stay objective that is a tactic used by chairs as well. As Model UN is a game of diplomacy and influence do not forget that, as a chair, you are part of it as well.

Guide Delegates with Caution:

A good chair judges the room they see and avoids telling delegates what to do but that does not mean they should never be proactive. Beginner committees not only need to be told something is off policy or a bad strategic choice, but also be shown examples of what to do and how to do it well. Whether interpersonally or collectively to the entire room, advice and recommendations should be used when needed. A chair is not there to leave the room completely alone. A chair is there to facilitate good Model UN, which sometimes means taking a step forward as much as one takes a step back.

Serving as a Chair gives you the great opportunity of stimulating lobbying, coordinating debate and initiating effective resolutions. However, the position also comes with great responsibility. You are the face of the conference to all your delegates. You represent the entire Student Officer team, as well as the Executive Staff, being the link between them and the delegates. You set the tone for the entire weekend. You serve as a role model to the delegates and you will be the one to encourage young students to rise above themselves in diplomatic debate.

All of the above may appear to be an unmanageable amount to keep in mind, but this guide explains your task of serving as a Chair step by step and additionally gives a range of tips to make your Chairing experience the best it can possibly be. Remember that you have been appointed as a Chair, because you are trusted to be capable of excelling in this position.