



Pre-Writing Policy

What is prewriting?

Prewriting is bringing written material into committee that is meant to become part of the committee's final work. This includes fully drafted resolution clauses, directives, crisis notes or working paper text.

Prewriting vs. research

We expect every delegate to arrive well researched. That is why we provide background guides, and research is an essential part of the Model UN experience. Delegates are encouraged to come in knowing their country's or character's position, past international action on the topic, and the ideas they want to propose. What delegates may not do is write those ideas out in advance as text meant to be copied into a resolution, directive, or crisis note.

What can you bring into committee?

Delegates may bring research notes, their position paper, and their solution ideas. They may not bring written-out clauses, directives, or pre-planned crisis notes. The line is simple: an idea is something you bring to debate, while a clause is text ready to be pasted into a resolution. Delegates can discuss their ideas freely, but should not arrive with that text already written. For example, introducing a named clause in your first speech suggests it was written before the committee. This applies to position papers as well. Delegates are welcome to reference real, existing programs and policies, as that is part of their research.

Why is prewriting not allowed?

The heart of Model UN is building solutions together through debate, negotiation, and compromise. When delegates arrive with their solutions already worked out, that collaborative process is skipped, and delegates who prepared fairly are put at a disadvantage.

Enforcement

SSUNS has a zero-tolerance policy for prewriting. Any delegate found to have prewritten will be removed from award contention. Our chairs and staff are experienced at recognizing prewritten material. That said, delegates will not be removed from award contention without being informed. If a concern arises, it will be raised with the delegate and faculty advisor directly.

Research during committee

Delegates may not conduct research during committee sessions and should be paying attention to the delegates speaking. In GAs, delegates using Slack should not send anything they would not write on a paper note.

Work outside committee

Outside of committee sessions, delegates may conduct research to inform their positions but may not work on working papers, draft resolutions, crisis notes, or directives.

We will be monitoring compliance with all of these policies and will make no exceptions, in order to maintain fairness and equitable access to awards.