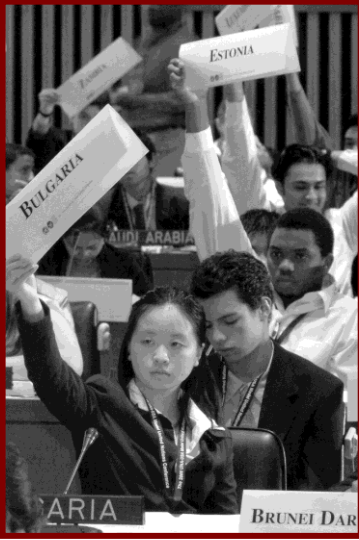


Model United Nations

an introduction



What is the Model United Nations (MUN)?

MUN is a simulation or role play of the work of the United Nations. Students take on the role of delegates from countries who are members of the United Nations, which involves the group role playing the functions of a particular UN body – for example UNICEF or the Security Council.

The MUN conference involves debating a serious issue that affects all countries and deciding collectively on 'resolutions' - and agreement on the best ways to take action to address the problem. MUN participants learn how the international community acts on its concerns about peace and security, human rights, the environment, food and hunger, economic development, globalization, and more.

Delegates must try to represent accurately and honestly the policies of the country they represent, and then engage in debate. This requires thorough research and collective agreement. During a simulation, students must employ a variety of communications and critical thinking skills to defend and advance the policies of their country.

The UN delegates will have to negotiate with other countries who may have different views on the issues being discussed. Students will also need to seek out and reach compromise with those countries who – on a particular issue – have common ground with their own country. Reaching an agreed resolution requires skills in resolving conflict, negotiation and compromise.

MUN gives students the chance to experience, practice and experiment with planning, debating, public speaking, listening, strategic thinking, conflict resolution, negotiation and decision making. A guiding motivation behind model UN activity is that skills of conflict resolution and negotiation need to be experienced rather than just observed.

It's also a lot of fun!

