

ALTMUN MS 26



RESEARCH GUIDE

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Acknowledgments:

Subcommittee on 2026 Middle School Conference
Diplomat Guide by Best Delegate
BestDelegate.com

I. Research

Research is the foundation of any Model United Nations experience, because instead of representing yourself or your own beliefs, you are representing an assigned country. It is important that you have a good understanding of the facts and beliefs of that country. You need to do research on both your country AND the topic that your committee will be debating.

As a Model UN delegate, you will have to represent what your assigned country thinks about the topic and how they might try to solve the issue at hand. No matter what country you are assigned, it is your job to represent those beliefs in committee. You might even find other delegates, whose country views align with yours and allow you to work together to find solutions.

Representing the beliefs of your country is sometimes easy and other times more difficult. It can depend on your exposure level to that country, religion or even culture. Regardless of your own personal beliefs, you need to be well prepared to serve as a representative of your assigned country and the ways that would want to solve the problem. The best way to make sure you represent your country well is to research three things:

1. General facts about your country
2. The history of the topic
3. Past actions or resolutions that have been passed in response to the topic

II. Researching the country profile

- A. The first step to your research should always be looking for facts about your country. You should be looking for four things: your country's physical geography, culture, political environment, and economic makeup.
- B. Some recommended sources include the [CIA World factbook](#), [IMUNA country profiles](#), [Wikipedia](#), and [BBC country profiles](#).
- C. If you are confused about what details to look for, ask yourself these questions:
 - a. Physical Geography:
 - i. What is your country's official name?
 - ii. What region/continent of the world is your country located in?
 - iii. How big is your country? (square miles)
 - iv. What are the main landforms in your country?
 - v. What is the weather and climate like in your country?
 - b. Culture:
 - i. What is your country's population?
 - ii. What is your country's ethnic composition?
 - iii. Does your country have an official language? If so, what is it? What other languages are spoken?
 - iv. How would you describe the quality of life in your country? Consider how your country's citizens feel about their lives, how corrupt the government is, and how other countries view your country.
 - v. What historic events have shaped your country's views about some current issues?
 - c. Political Environment:
 - i. When was your country founded?
 - ii. What type of government does your country have?
 - iii. Who is your government leader? If they are connected to a political party, what do they believe?
 - iv. What is the military like? Is military service voluntary or mandated? How many people serve in the military? What have they done recently?
 - v. Is your country a part of any international organizations that are NOT affiliated with the United Nations? (examples include NATO, OPEC, etc)
 - d. Economic makeup:
 - i. What is your country's Gross Domestic Product (GDP)?
 - ii. What are some natural resources that your country has?
 - iii. What is your country's currency? How strong is it compared to other currencies?
 - iv. What are your country's major imports and exports?
 - v. Who are your country's biggest trading partners? Are they in a trade organization?

III. Researching the topic background

- A. The first thing you always need to do when researching the topic is to read the topic guide! It will be the most reliable source of information when you are researching how the topic has affected the international community. The topic guides can be found [on our website](#).
 - a. Researching the topic background, along with lots of deep research about your country, will help you be prepared for any speaking you need to do, especially if it's unplanned!
- B. If you need further information about the topic, use your topic guide's suggested sources Wikipedia, news reports, and other relevant sources to find information.
- C. Ask yourself these questions to guide your research about the topic:
 - a. What are some individual components of this topic?
 - b. Who/which countries have been affected the most by this topic?
 - c. Does this topic affect my country? How much?

IV. Researching past actions and country policies

- A. Past action refers to any bill or piece of legislation that has been passed to solve the topic. It includes any legislation that was released on an international scale, such as resolutions by the UN, or on a national scale, such as your country's laws.
- B. It is important to research any past action that your country has taken part in so that you can predict how your country would act in committee. Researching past actions can also give you an idea of solutions you can advocate for in your resolution and in committee.
 - a. To find information about this leg of your research, try starting with the [UN country mission statements](#), [country treaties](#), [SecCo resolutions](#), and [NGO guide](#).

V. Researching solutions

- A. The main goal of your time in committee is to create a set of solutions for the problems caused by the topic. Using the research you have done about your country, the topic, and your country's beliefs about the topic, it is now time to think about the best solution your country can suggest in committee.
 - a. As a reminder, this is a solution that *your country* thinks is the best, not you.
- B. Don't forget that the solution needs to be...
 - a. Collaborative. A majority of the countries in your committee need to agree on your solution, so cater your solution to their wants and needs.
 - b. Realistic. Your committee's member states need to be able to actually do the solution in real life. Think about if your solution takes too big of a toll on the environment, the economies of the member states, or even if it takes too much time.

- c. Detailed. Where will the solution take place? Who will pay for the solution? Is there a certain group that needs to be affected by the solution more than others? Making sure there are no holes in your plan will make it more likely for it to pass in committee.