



Preparing to be a THAIMUN Delegate

As a delegate you have to be prepared to speak. The most effective delegates are the ones who are **well prepared**.

As a well-prepared delegate you will be confident and ready to **speak at every opportunity**.

To be a confident delegate you need to be well informed about the issues to be discussed in the committee.

Being informed is a long process which involves **THOROUGH RESEARCH** and daily reading of online newspapers like *The New York Times*, *The Guardian* or *The Washington Post*, and viewing reliable cable news bulletins on television, such as CNN, BBC World, Al Jazeera, Channel News Asia or ITV. Beware of FAKE NEWS channels, i.e. *Fox News*

Following the news on a daily basis is very important. Read a newspaper every day.

If you have a smart phone, downloading apps like BBC World or CNN keeps you in constant touch with world news.

A highly recommended website to help delegates prepare for a MUN conference is:
<http://bestdelegate.com/>

In the weeks prior to the conference you should **contact your chair and other delegates in your committee by email or otherwise**, and discuss issues. Remember to seek out delegates representing countries likely to share your country's policies and predicaments. Your adviser at school will have been sent a list of delegates and chairs in all committees, with emails.

Be sure to read the **Chairs' reports** on the THAIMUN website (under BRIEFINGS) for valuable guidelines to follow in your research.

Every delegate should prepare the following items for THAIMUN:

1. **Position Paper (Opening Statement)** – a one-minute speech setting out your country's position on the committee question. This is the first item in the Committee stage of the conference.
2. **Right to Statement** – a one-minute speech about anything to do with your country. About four Right to Statements are heard at the beginning of each Committee and GA session.

3. **A Resolution** – or at least some ideas for a resolution. Every delegate should have their country's name attached to one resolution as a submitter/co-submitter or a sponsor/co-sponsor. Resolutions have two sections:

- (i) Pre-ambulatory clauses which set out the nature of the problem, and
- (ii) Operative clauses which set out the UN's solutions to the problem

Resolutions must be set out strictly according to the rules. See the THAIMUN website for guidelines for setting out a resolution. A **vetting committee** made up of MUN coaches will check each resolution for appropriate wording, correct presentation, respect for bloc groups, a maximum of 80 lines, and clarity.

Delegates will get time for **caucusing** which means looking for other countries who are likely to have a resolution you can support and **collaborating** with them to combine ideas. You should not support a resolution which is not in the interests of your country. Groups of similar, like-minded countries are called **blocs**.

4. **Research** – this is crucial if you are to have a successful conference and not make a fool of yourself. Your research should be mainly on the committee question, but you should also have a strong understanding of your country's position. Research takes several weeks if not months of work.

It is recommended that you create a **research folder** – see: <http://bestdelegate.com/mun-research-made-easy-15-things-every-delegate-should-have-in-their-research-binder/>

Other useful sources for research are:

- UN web-sites – <http://www.un.org/en/> WHO, FAO, UNESCO, UNHCR, IMF, World Bank, Human Rights Commission, International Court of Justice, ESCAP (Bangkok)
- CIA Factbook <https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>
- WTO (World Trade Organization) - <http://www.wto.org/>
- The Economist – one of the best weekly news magazines and website – in your school library - <http://www.economist.com/>
- New Internationalist – especially useful monthly magazine which investigates a major issue and devotes most of the copy to it – in your school library - <http://newint.org/>
- TIME magazine and website - <http://time.com/>
- BBC World - <http://www.bbc.com/news/world/>
- CNN - <http://edition.cnn.com/>
- International Committee of the Red Cross - <https://www.icrc.org/en>
- Save the Children Fund - http://www.savethechildren.org/site/c.8rKLIXMGIpl4E/b.6115947/k.8D6E/Official_Site.htm
- Oxfam - <http://www.oxfam.org/>
- CARE - <http://www.care.org/>

The THAIMUN website:

<http://www.thaimun.org>

provides essential data for your preparation and understanding.

Under the heading THE CONFERENCE, see...

- PROCEDURES, where you will find conference rules and procedures, resolution guidelines, committee handbooks, chairs' manual, etc.
- CONFERENCE SCHEDULE for a detailed timetable of the three-day THAIMUN conference
- BRIEFINGS, reports from chairs on issues to be debated in each committee

Speeches

One of the main purposes in attending a MUN conference is to speak. Gaining confidence in front of a group of your peers by delivering a speech is a valuable and wonderful skill that will set you up for life. To some people this comes easy...sometimes too easy...and such people may be full of confidence but have little to say.

Remember, at a MUN conference you are among friends, sharing a unique experience. At the same time, it is an immense challenge. I have seen extremely shy people make a deliberate decision, that they will once-and-for-all, overcome their shyness and break the barrier. Once you deliver your first speech you will be on your way. But you will not be able to deliver that speech unless you follow the advice above about research and preparation.

MUN speeches do not have to be "I Have a Dream Speeches". Martin Luther King, one of modern history's great speech makers, did not have a few minutes to prepare his speech, like you have. He had many weeks and the help of dozens of his supporters. At MUN you have just a few minutes to prepare a speech.

Do not write a speech word for word, or even detailed notes. A **list of key words** should be enough to remind you of the main points you want to make once you get to the podium.

Most speeches will be delivered for, against or to a resolution. The speech is already written for you. **Your speech is the resolution.** Go through the resolution outlining the good or bad points and why you support or do not support the clauses.

Useful websites on speech-making:

<https://www.thestudygurus.com/perfect-speeches-and-presentations-at-high-school/>

<http://www.aresearchguide.com/3tips.html>

<http://sixminutes.dlugan.com/speech-preparation-1-how-to-prepare-presentation/>

<https://jerz.setonhill.edu/writing/technical-writing/oral-presentations-tips/>

Good luck at THAIMUN and in your MUN career. Remember the three rules for a successful MUN delegate:

1. **Research**
2. **Research**
3. **RESEARCH**

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