

Opening Speeches

A simple guide for our MUN-ers

Introduction:

It is a common misconception that your **opening speech** is equivalent to your **position paper**. However, it is not that simple.

Your opening speech is your first deliverance. Unlike the position paper, the opening speech is written to be spoken. Its primary purpose is to give your fellow delegates a deeper understanding of your country's political position regarding the topics at hand. Other delegates will use this to determine whether or not they will work with you on resolution-drafting, or if they have the same stance, which comes into play with voting and crafting alliances.

The following will guide you through the process of writing a compelling speech that will be sure to grant you a favorable first impression.

Format:

Format-wise, opening speeches tend to be a little more free-style. There is no set number of paragraphs, nor are there any specific questions you are ordered to answer.

However, we do have some pointers that will help make your opening speech more effective in delivery.

Proper Address

1. Opening speeches must include the proper address.

Overview of Each Topic

Because MUN demands certain formalities, all speeches must begin with "**Honorable chairs, esteemed delegates.**"

Call to Action

2. Jump directly into expressing your country's concerns for your topics.

Summarize in the briefest of ways the first topic at hand. Give an example or defining statistic regarding the problem. Then

elaborate on your country's political stance. What does your country believe is the primary cause and how can we best counteract that? What would be the best solution?

You are encouraged to address each of your topics in this way. However, if your country is heavily invested in one topic over another—for instance, if you are Israel

addressing the Israeli-Palestine issue—focus on that topic, as it deserves more attention.

3. As for your concluding lines, deliver a call to action that may both maintain a tone of professionalism and invite the committee to fruitful debate. An example is provided below:

China hopes that the delegates of this committee can work together to provide solutions to these world problems by putting aside our differing ideologies, religious differences and join together to bring about a better tomorrow to people all over the world. Thank you.

Conclusion:

Because your committee's first impression of you will be based on your opening speech, it is advised that you rehearse your speech several times till fluency. You are generally given 90 seconds to deliver your entire speech, so brevity is crucial.

Be prepared to answer any points of information, or questions, that your fellow delegates may ask.

For more help on the research aspects, feel free to refer to the SCIMUN Official Guide to Position Papers.