



Deutsche Schule Thessaloniki

Model United Nations

Youth Assembly Manual

Introduction

The Youth Assembly is very similar to a normal Model United Nations Committee; however, it bears some differences. First of all, the Youth Assembly mostly addresses younger MUNers -usually between the 7th and the 9th grade- or MUN first timers. Furthermore, the participants don't represent countries but themselves and thus, they don't have a specific policy they need to follow but their own personal opinion and instead of "delegates" they are called by their first name. Moreover, the Youth Assembly is smaller than most Committees, as it usually consists of 15-25 members and as a result, team-work is promoted on a scale greater than any other Committee, because all participants are divided into smaller groups during the conference.

All in all, the Youth Assembly is a Committee that has a considerably friendlier and more personal tone, thus making it a good introduction to the Model United Nations world and a great form of preparation for all that want to later excel as delegates or even ambassadors.

What happens in the Youth Assembly?

The Youth Assembly generally consists of Action Papers, meaning different topics for discussion. At DSTMUN there will be one Committee that will prepare two action papers on two different issues. The Student Officers responsible for the Youth Assembly are called Heads and not Chairs or Presidents.

The main goal of the Youth Assembly is, as mentioned before, to write one Action Paper per topic, which should both underline the significance of the topic at hand and provide feasible solutions. The content shall be discussed over all three days of the conference, while the Papers have to be ready by its end.

On Friday, essentially the first day of the conference, the participants get to know each other, while the Heads entertain some "ice breakers" and try to familiarize the participants with the procedure. Even though discussion can begin on the first day, it will be unofficial, although it can be a good introduction to the topic as it resembles brainstorming. After this, will follow a procedure similar to the Lobbying that will happen in other Committees. The participants will be divided into small groups that will discuss different aspects of the issue, depending on the size of the Youth Assembly, but usually a group will not exceed 5 participants. The Assembly can furthermore unofficially discuss the second issue or choose to finish with the first one before moving on to the second- it is up to the decision of the members and the discretion of the Heads.

On Saturday, the participants finish with their work and write down their proposals. After noting down their official proposals, either the official discussion starts or they

move on to the preparing the second issue. Each group should represent it work and after, other participants can express their opinions, something that usually heats up the discussion. As in a normal Committee, the speakers can answer to points of information. In case several disagreements occur, since there is no voting, the groups may re-write or even withdraw some proposals.

On the final day, meaning Sunday, the discussion on one or both papers is resumed and finished. When done, the Heads are responsible for typing all the proposals in the proper form of an Action Paper and thus, by the end of the conference two documents must be handed. The day can finish with remarks by both the participants and the Heads.

Action Paper

The Action Paper, is essentially a simplified version of a resolution, in addition to the result of a three-day discussion and the work of the members of the Youth Assembly. Its form should resemble a report or petition letter, meaning a published letter that proposes solutions and ideas and whose purpose is to persuade the readers to adopt the measures proposed. The target group is e.g. a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), young activists etc.

It consists of two Sections, the Analysis section and the Solution section

1. **Analysis Section:** it should take up to around 20% of the Paper and as the name suggests, it should analyze the issue at hand by mentioning information such as but not limited to the current problems, the measures taken so far and the factors that play an important role
2. **Solution Section:** it should take up to around 80% of the Paper and it should propose concrete, feasible and detailed solutions concerning the issue at hand. Everything in the solutions (the who, the how, the what) should be specified

Both sections should be handled during the participants' preparation work in groups. The Analysis can also be the result of the first rough discussion on the issue, while the participants aren't advised to put much time into it, since the Solutions section of the Action Paper should be their priority.

The Action Paper should have a short introduction and conclusion, which shall be written by the Heads during the conference. The main body of the Action Paper, meaning the Analysis and the Solutions sections, can consist of several sub-categories, while it should be prepared by the participants and handed to the Heads in a USB stick. Since the form of the Action Paper is similar to the one of a report, there are no special linking words and although full sentences are preferred, bullet points are fine as well. There is no specific word limit, however participants should keep in mind the Action Paper should be short and simple, so as to not burden the reader with unnecessary

and overly detailed information. If an Action Paper is deemed too long and needs to be shortened, the Analysis section should be reduced, rather than the Solutions section

Participants' Preparation

First of all, all participants should read this manual, so as to familiarize themselves with the procedure. After that, participants should carry out a thorough research into the issues at hand, through means such as but not limited to the internet, encyclopaedias and specialized books or magazines. Once done with their research, all participants should have a clear idea about both the issues at hand, the factors involved and the possible solutions.

Finally, the participants' proposals should be written down, meaning they should prepare a draft action paper, consisting just of the Analysis and the Solution section. The participants should have their draft Action Papers with them during the conference, so as to have some stock ideas during the discussion and the preparation of the official Action Paper.

Vocabulary & Rules of Procedure

1. Head and Co-Heads: people responsible for organizing, supervising and correcting the work of the participants, answering their questions and guiding them
2. The students can be referred to as participants, members or called by their names
3. The Youth Assembly's work is carried out in one Assembly, which prepares Action Papers.
4. The members of the Assembly work in groups or teams in order to prepare draft solutions.
5. The participants can speak one after the other and while delivering a speech they should remain standing
6. If there is a number of participants wishing to deliver a speech they should raise their hand and get recognized by the Heads, before doing so
7. After a speech, other participants can ask the speaker to further elaborate on one of his/her points, those questions are called "points of information"
8. When participants wish to ask the Heads something they can raise their hand and say "I have a question"
9. The discussion -which is also not referred to as debate- refers to solutions, proposals, measures etc. and not clauses

10. There is neither voting procedure nor amendments, while if any serious disagreements on any proposal occur, they can be re-written or withdrawn by the group that presented them
11. The expressions “house”, “floor”, “delegate”, “alliances”, “lobbying”, “chair”, resolutions, amendments, points and motions are not valid in the Youth Assembly
12. The official language during all procedures is formal English
13. The Model United Nations dress code and general behavior rules apply also to the Youth Assembly
14. The solutions proposed should be independent from the United Nations, since it would be a little unrealistic to rely on the UN for measures proposed by young students, however local authorities, governments and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) can be referred to
15. The proposed actions and measures should be realistic, feasible and documented
16. The importance of research should not be underestimated, as poorly prepared students cannot actively participate and thus, the quality of the discussion is limited