

GUIDE TO UN COMMITTEES

1. Essential reading list (in this order);

a) United Nations Charter (Chapters I - VII, those relevant to your committees and important articles such as 103, 108 etc.)

http://www.un.org/en/items/Other_UNCharter.pdf ,

b) Mandate of Committee

Example - SC <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/> ,

c) Provisional Rules of Procedure (It's there for most committees),

Of SC - <http://www.un.org/en/sc/about/rules/>,

d) Basic country research (Political system, important leaders, government, geography, economy, basic history etc),

e) Basic Foreign Policy research (on no set agenda but basic allies, neutrals, enemies)

f) Background Guide + Supplementary documents, if any

g) In depth Foreign Policy research with respect to Agenda,

h) Figure out your objective in committee (Ex. Russian objective in SC discussing Crimea is to establish Crimea as part of Russia, establishing annexation as legal, establish the referendum as legal etc)

i) Research arguments to establish objectives and counters to other country's objectives.

2. Once this reading is finished, you will have figured out what your government wants in a situation and its arguments for the same accordingly.

3. To make sure your argument is convincing and compelling, you have to be original and creative;

Usage of laws;

Statistics;

Reports, etc.

There are several effective methods to get your point across, exploit them.

4. With respect to point 3, do not quote a law and leave it there, don't just tell the Council a statistic and leave it there. Your argument should never consist of just facts, it should consist of the logical analysis of facts, figures, laws etc. Make an argument that is backed by research, not an argument that is research.

5. An important thing to note is to know your foreign policy inside out. What if there is a crisis situation that hasn't happened before? You'll be required to figure out the foreign policy your country will take based on what it wants. Once you figure that out, you're good.

6. The Provisional Rules of Procedure are complementary to the UNA-USA Procedure. If the Security Council already has an authentic workable procedure, why not use it? Don't read too in-depth into it, it's pretty basic and it has some interesting nuances that you won't find in the UNA-USA Procedure. Just know of its existence, give it a read once, you're sorted.

7. For me, it's always about how best I can represent my country and not how well I argue - these two go hand in hand. Build content after having a a foreign policy objective.

Prepare well and hope this helps.

Best of luck!

Regards,
Agastya Sen.