

How to Slay the WASMUN Research Beast (or, How to shore up your knowledge in the most useful way possible before the conference):

1. *Know the UN*

This is the organization within which you will be working, Honorable Delegate. Like knowing the rules of the house, orientation depends on how fluent you become in the language of the UN. You can't go wrong with looking for both breadth and depth. Some pertinent questions:

- **Who** works at the UN? Who doesn't? *The Organization.*
 - **What** principles is the UN based on? *The Charter.*
 - **When** did the UN accomplish its tasks and when did it not? *UN History.*
 - **Where** is the UN located? *Geography.*
 - **Why** is the image of the UN different in every country? *Activities.*
 - **How** do member nations make decisions? *Hierarchy.*
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2. *Know your country*

Imagine someone walking into the room, saying they're from a certain place, and not knowing anything about it. You would either say they're amnesiac or "fruity" – either way they don't know what they're talking about. Another way to look at it is, how can you represent a people you don't know? Some questions to consider:

- **Who** are your representees? *People.*
 - **What** do they care about, and what do they not care about? *Interests.*
 - **When** was your country "born"? (If ever?) *Past.*
 - **Where** do they specifically live? *Demographics.*
 - **Why** are certain currents of thought more prevalent, and certain not? *Philosophy.*
 - **How** would they react to a certain situation? *Culture.*
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3. *Know the issue*

Contrary to popular misconception, knowing an issue is not the same as knowing your position on it. Scientifically investigating, analyzing, and evaluating a current issue is as far from deriving your opinion on it as you can get. Besides you'll need to know the bare facts in order to argue with those who are going to come from a different angle about it. Here are some questions to ponder:

- **Who** are the people affected by the issue, and who is affecting it? *Protagonists.*

- **What** is bringing us to talk about this today? *History.*
 - **When** did it all begin, and within what time frame can a solution be positioned? *Origins.*
 - **Where** can the most authentic information about this issue be found? *References.*
 - **Why** would someone not want to talk about it? *Divergent Interests.*
 - **How** can we help each other solve this issue? *Fair Solutions.*
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4. *Know your position*

This is where you take your knowledge of the UN system, of the country's interests that you are representing, and of the issue at hand, to formulate a well-supported vision of the world you want to live in. In other words, you've been hiding at the library or at the computer researching the previous three topics, and now you put them together in order to transform the world at the WASMUN Conference.

- **Who** do I want to influence at WASMUN? *Collaborators and Adversaries.*
- **What** are the principles upon which my country's position is based? *Flexibility.*
- **When** should I speak and when should I silent? *Strategy.*
- **Where** does the issue affect my country? *At Home.*
- **Why** is this an issue for me? For others? *Essence.*
- **How** can another country's decisions affect my own? *Real and Imaginary Borders.*