

**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
*of Philadelphia*

**Model Senate Foreign Relations Committee**

**ROLES AND ROLE DESCRIPTIONS**

- ▶ **SENATORS**: The role of a Senator is a leadership position in the Model Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings simulation.
1. A student nominated by the faculty sponsor must be carefully selected. Consider the following...
    - Student must attend the briefing session.
    - Student must have a working knowledge of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee, must thoroughly prepare to represent the assigned senator's responsibility as a member on the foreign relations committee, the senator's point of view, as well as a being well versed and knowledgeable on the hearing topic.
    - Student is expected to actively engage in the proceedings by asking good questions and making appropriate statements.
    - Student is expected to stay in character and dress in the attire of a senator serving on the Senate Committee.
  2. There are high-ranking Senator positions. These roles require the highest levels of leadership, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and demonstration of a 'take charge' personality.
    - Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Senator Lugar)
      1. Will open and close the plenary sessions of simulation.
      2. Will write and deliver an original speech to be delivered at the beginning of the program
      3. Will serve on one of the sub-committees.
    - Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (Senator Biden)
      1. Will write and deliver an original brief speech to be delivered after Senator Lugar's remarks.
      2. Will serve on one of the sub-committees
    - 4 Sub-committee Chair positions and 4 Sub-committee Ranking Members
      1. **Chairs** will lead their individual sub-committee through the morning and afternoon sessions.
      2. **Chairs** will write and deliver original brief remarks for the opening session of their sub-committee.
      3. **Chairs** will write and deliver a summary report of the day's sub-committee proceeding and deliver it during the closing plenary session.
      4. **Ranking Members** will write and deliver original brief remarks for the opening session of their sub-committee.
      5. **Ranking Members** will work with their Chair to develop an objective summary report.
- ▶ **SENATOR'S AIDE**: If your school has been assigned a Senator role, **one additional student can be assigned as the senator's aide.**
- The role of the senator's aide is to assist the senator with researching the topic and helping to develop questions to be asked of the witness.
  - The Senator's Aide will have a seat behind their Senator during the Hearings.

- The faculty sponsor selects the student.

▶ **WITNESSES:**

- **Reminder: Two students can play one witness role and give testimony.**
- Note: Witnesses listed are on opposing sides of the issue. Some witnesses may be unbiased on the issue and are testifying to provide an expertise on the topic. Basic rule is for students to prepare themselves carefully on their assigned witness and “stay in character” when drafting and presenting the testimony.

**Witness Requirements:**

- Any witness appearing before the committee or any subcommittee thereof shall file a **written statement** of his/her proposed testimony. This is to be submitted to the **sub-committee chair** at the beginning of the Sub-committee proceedings which follows the opening plenary session.
- Witness testimony is to consist of a 2-3 minute prepared factual statement (approximately 2 typed pages, double spaced) on what the witness wants the sub-committee to know.
- A high profile witness, for example, the Secretary of State, could be accompanied by a senior advisor. Although the Secretary of State would deliver the prepared statement, **both students should do the research and both should be prepared to respond to questions by the senators.**
- ***It is very important that witnesses not only prepare an informative testimony, but also be prepared to “think on their feet” and answer questions from the senators that may arise from their testimony.***

▶ **JOURNALIST:** A school may bring one student to “cover the story”.

- The student must come prepared to take notes. The student may take candid pictures with their own camera as long as they do not disrupt the proceedings.
- The student may cover the beginning and ending plenary sessions and one sub-committee hearing in the morning and one sub-committee hearing in the afternoon.
- ***Student must write the story and submit it to their faculty sponsor, journalism teacher and/or school newspaper editor. A copy of the final/published story is to be sent to the Education Department of the World Affairs Council of Philadelphia.***