

# Writing the Resolution

## Simplified Version

A resolution has four parts:

- Heading
- Subject
- Preamble
- Operative Clauses

### 1. Heading

The heading serves as identification for the resolution, and informs the reader of three things:

- WHERE the resolution will be submitted,
- WHAT the topic of the resolution is, and
- WHO the author (or authors) is.

Example heading:

**SUBMITTED TO: The Third  
Committee**  
**SUBJECT: Human Rights**  
**PROPOSED BY: The United States of  
America**

## 2. Subject

Just as every sentence has a subject, so must every resolution. The subject tells you WHO will be taking the final action -- the committee or body to which the resolution is ultimately submitted. (If the resolution is initially submitted to a subcommittee of a main organ, the main organ will be the subject.)

Example subject:

1. **THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,**
- or*
2. **SECURITY COUNCIL,**

## 3. Preamble

The preamble is the first half of the resolution. It explains WHY the action in the operative clauses should be taken. It states past action, reasons for the action and your reasons for concern.

The first word of the preambulatory clause should set the "tone" for the statement which will follow. Tone has to do with the strength of your conviction about the topic. Therefore, the stronger the conviction about an issue, the stronger the first word.

Each clause in the preamble should be followed by a comma (,) and the word "and." The last clause in this section of the resolution should be followed by a colon (:). See example resolution below.

**Some possible initiating phrases for  
preambulatory clauses:**

- Acknowledging
- Affirming
- Alarmed
- Anxious
- Appreciating
- Approving
- Aware
- Bearing in mind
- Being convinced
- Cognizant
- Concerned
- Confident
- Conscious
- Considering
- Contemplating
- Convinced
- Declaring
- Deeply disturbed
- Desiring
- Deploring
- Determined
- Emphasizing
- Encouraged
- Endorsing
- Expressing
  - appreciation
  - deep appreciation
- Expecting
- Fulfilling
- Fully
  - aware
  - believing
  - bearing in mind
- Grieved
- Guided by
- Having
  - adopted
  - approved
  - considered
  - decided
  - examined further
  - received
  - regard for
  - reviewed
  - viewed with apprehension
- Keeping in mind
- Mindful
- Noting
  - further
  - with approval
  - with deep concern
  - with regret
  - with satisfaction
  - with grave concern
- Observing
- Reaffirming
- Realizing
- Recalling
- Recognizing
- Referring
- Regretting
- Reiterating
- Seeking
- Stressing
- Taking
  - into account
  - into consideration
  - note
- Welcoming

## 4. Operative Clauses

The operative clauses of a resolution tell the reader what ACTION the committee should take to solve the problem set up in the preamble. The operative clauses should be the strongest part of your resolution, and will certainly be the most debated part.

The first word of the operative clause should technically be a verb, and should show what will follow in the clause. Language and tone will play a very important part in determining the strength of your operative clauses. Each operative clause should be numbered, and should end with a semi-colon (;). The last operative clause should be followed by a period (.).

### Some possible initiating phrases for activating or operative clauses:

- Accepts
- Adopts
  - thanks
- Affirms
  - the belief
- Appeals
  - the hope
- Appreciates
- Approves
  - Further
    - invites
    - proclaims
    - reminds
    - recommends
    - requests
    - resolves
- Authorizes
- Calls upon
- Commends
- Concurs
- Condemns
- Confirms
  - Instructs
- Congratulates
  - Reaffirms
- Considers
  - Recognizes
- Decides
  - Recommends
- Declares
  - Regrets
- Deplores
  - Reiterates
- Designates
  - Renews its appeal
- Directs
  - Repeats
- Expresses
  - Suggests
  - Supports
  - Takes note of
  - Transmits
  - Urges
  - Welcomes
  - its appreciation
  - conviction
  - its regret
  - sympathy

## Example Resolution

SUBMITTED TO: The Third Committee  
SUBJECT: Strengthening the U.N. Center for Human Rights  
PROPOSED BY: The Kingdom of Spain

1. THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY,
2. ENCOURAGED by the existence of the United Nations' Human Rights Center
3. in Geneva, Switzerland, and
4. ALARMED that even though there is a Center for Human Rights, abuse
5. continues world wide, and
6. ANXIOUS to improve human rights conditions around the world:
  7. 1. CALLS UPON the Secretary General to appoint a High Commissioner of
  8. Human Rights; and
  9. 2. SUGGESTS that the High Commissioner's duties would be to:
    10. a. Oversee the implementation of decisions of all United Nations human rights
    11. bodies, and
    12. b. Coordinate all human rights programs in the United Nations system;
    13. 3. RECOMMENDS that Human Rights Center's services and programs
    14. be greatly expanded to include:
      15. a. Monitoring and collecting human rights information on a world-
      16. wide basis, and
      17. b. Placing representatives in the offices of all U.N. agencies, and
      18. c. Authorizing rapporteurs to examine country situations and
      19. report consistent patterns of gross violation of human rights,
      20. according to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, and
      21. d. Instructing the Human Rights Center, in coordination with
      22. United Nations Educational Scientific and Cultural Organization
      23. (UNESCO), to develop more active programs for human
      24. rights education;
  25. 4. URGES all nations to contribute to a United Nations Voluntary Human
  26. Rights Fund to Support the Human Rights Center; and
  27. 5. COMMENDS all nations who support these ideas and this resolution, for Human
  28. Rights are important to everyone in our world.

