



WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL
of Philadelphia

2007 Model Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings Simulation

ROLE DESCRIPTIONS and RESPONSIBILITIES

I. SENATORS

The role of a senator in the Model Senate Foreign Relations Committee Hearings simulation is a leadership position.

- 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; be knowledgeable on the hearing topic and represent the senator's point of view on the topic.
- Student is expected to actively engage in the proceedings by asking relevant and on-point 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.

Below are the high-ranking senator positions and their respective responsibilities. These positions require a higher level of leadership, knowledge of parliamentary procedure and demonstration of a 'take charge' personality. Also note that all Committee Chairs and Ranking Members must attend a mandatory prep session on December 3, from 4 – 4:45 p.m., at the Council Offices.

- Chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (**Senator Joseph Biden**)
 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 subcommittees.
- Ranking Member of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee (**Senator Richard Lugar**)
 1. Will write and deliver an original brief speech to be delivered after Senator Biden's remarks.
 2. Will serve on one of the subcommittees.
- Four subcommittee Chair positions and four subcommittee Ranking Members
 1. **Chairs** will lead their individual subcommittee through the morning and afternoon sessions.
 2. **Chairs** will write and deliver original brief remarks for the opening session of their subcommittee.
 3. **Chairs** will write and deliver a summary report of the day's subcommittee 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 subcommittee.
 5. **Ranking Members** will work with their Chair to develop an objective summary report.
 6. **All Other Senators** must prepare thoughtful questions to ask witnesses and participate actively in drafting the summary report.

*We will provide detailed information regarding the summary report at the December 3 meeting.

II. SENATORS' AIDES

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 in researching the topic and to help develop questions for the witnesses.
- The senator's aide will have a seat behind the senator during the hearings.
- The faculty sponsor selects the student.

III. WITNESSES

Two students may share the role of witness, but both must participate fully.

- Any witness appearing before the committee or any subcommittee thereof, shall file a **written statement** of his/her proposed testimony. **Witnesses must submit their statement to the chair during the morning proceedings.**
- Witness testimony is to consist of a two to three-minute prepared factual statement (approximately two typed pages, double spaced) addressing key facts and issues that the witness wants to present to the committee. The two students are to work together, developing the testimony; they can testify together before the committee. For example, the Secretary of State could be accompanied by a senior advisor. Although the Secretary of State would deliver the prepared statement, **both 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 statement, but also be prepared to answer questions from the senators that may arise from their testimony.*

IV. JOURNALISTS

Each school may have one "reporter" role. We leave it up to the school to select and prepare that student with his or her specific responsibilities prior to their attending the simulation. Please note: This is not an observer role. The student must have an assigned responsibility.