

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 (:).

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