RESOLUTIONS

**Writing a Resolutions**

Resolutions express an opinion on pressing international issues or recommend action to be taken by the UN committees or outside agencies. The page will serve as a guide to the format of a resolution but keep in mind the best resolutions are the result of finding common interest as goals expressing that consensus in language that is clear, concise, and specific.

Resolutions contain three parts:

**1. The Heading:** The heading tells at a glance what the resolution is about. Clearly stated at the top should be:

* The committee name
* The subject of the resolution
* The sponsors of the resolution
* Signatories of the resolution (Countries that wish to hear the resolution debated may include themselves as signatories, though they may not necessarily support it. Resolutions require signatories of one-fifth of the body in order to be considered).

**2. The Preambulatory Clauses:** The preamble is used to demonstrate an existing problem and the need for action. It can cite the UN Charter, past UN resolutions or committees. Or other general information about the topic. Clauses are separated by commas, and they start with preambulatory phrases. The preamble does not propose action on the issue.

**3. The Operative Clauses:** Operative clauses propose action. They follow a logical procession, each containing one distinct idea. Causes are numbered and the first word is underlined, which is usually an operative phrase. Each clause ends with a semicolon, except the last, which ends with a period. Keep in mind that the resolution in all bodies except the Security Council are non-binding.

Additional parts:

**Amendments:** Approved draft resolutions are modified through amendments. An amendments is a written statement that adds, deletes or revises an operative clause in a draft resolution. The amendment process is used to strengthen consensus on a resolution by allowing delegates to change certain sections. There are two types of amendments:

* A **friendly amendment** is a change to draft resolution that all sponsors agree with. After the amendment is signed by all of the draft resolution’s sponsor and approved by the committee director or president, it will automatically incorporate into the resolution.
* An **unfriendly amendment** is a change that some or all of the draft resolution’s sponsors do not support and must be voted upon by the committee. The author(s) of the amendment will need to obtain a required number of signatories in order to introduce it (usually 20 percent of the committee). Prior to voting on the draft resolution, the committee votes on all unfriendly amendments.

RESOLUTION FORMAT EXAMPLE

Committee Name (without abbreviations)

Sponsors: Official names of the sponsoring countries (ex: Republic of Korea not South Korea)

Signatories: Official names of signatory countries

Topic

Title of the Amendment

The General Assembly, (or other organ)

Recalling that five spaces should be indented before each preambulatory clause,

Recognizing that one line should be skipped after the title and before and after every clause,

Gravely concerned that delegates may forget to use a comma at the end of preambulatory clauses,

Recalling that preambulatory causes cannot be amended,

Aware that the format of the resolution may be changed by a chair or the Secretary General,

1. Nevertheless recognizes that this format is used at most conferences;
2. Urges that two line separate the preambulatory clauses form the operative portion of the resolution;
3. Welcomes clear and simple wording, explanations and splitting complex ideas into sup-operatives;
4. With one line between each sub-operative;
5. With no underlining in the sub-operatives;
6. With a semi-colon at the end of each sub-operatives and operative;
7. Observes that a resolution, being only one sentence, always ends with a period.