



Delegate Guide to:

CRISIS COMMITTEES

UNLV MUN

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**How to Write Directives and Crisis Notes,
How to Plan Crisis Arcs, and Examples!**

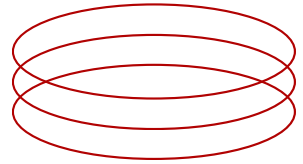
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INTRODUCTION: WHAT IS CRISIS?



Welcome to Crisis! Delegates seeking a fast-paced and fluid committee experience, with the opportunity to directly respond to issues as they evolve, may find themselves right at home in this committee. The following excerpt from MUNUC (Model United Nations at the University of Chicago) gives a great overview of how Crisis differs from the traditional committee experience.

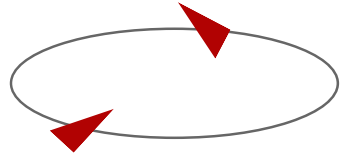
“A crisis committee is a decision making body that has more power than a traditional committee. Whilst General Assemblies recommend and build consensus, focusing on creating and refining frameworks for the nations party to align their actions, crisis committees produce action.”

Crisis can take shape in many different ways – from a Board of Directors deciding the future of a company to a rebellion group trying to win a war.

Crisis moves much faster than a General Assembly or Specialized Body committee. Because the topics discussed in Crisis are rapidly-evolving, it also requires much more targeted and constant action than a traditional committee.

Crisis committees are typically recommended for advanced delegates with seasoned conference experience. However, any delegate wishing to meet the challenge of putting in some additional preparation and is confident in their speaking abilities can certainly rise to the occasion.

COMMITTEE STRUCTURE



Both Crisis and Specialized Body committees differ from traditional committees in that they feature two channels through which action occurs: **Frontroom** and **Backroom**.

FRONTROOM

All delegates, the Chairs, and the Dais will spend the entire committee in Frontroom. Thus, any action that is taken publicly, including moderated and unmoderated caucuses and the writing and passing of **Public Directives**, occurs in Frontroom.

Public Directives

Just as in General Assembly, Crisis delegates must work together in Frontroom to address key issues. However, issues must be responded to much more quickly and with more specific, targeted solutions in Crisis than in GA as delegates are responding to rapidly evolving situations. This is accomplished through **Public Directives**, which are essentially shorter-form resolutions.

BACKROOM

Backroom is made up of a Crisis Director and crisis staffers, who are in charge of guiding the storyline of committee. This includes creating the **Crisis Updates** that delegates must respond to throughout committee. Any action that is taken secretly through **Private Notes** that advance delegates' **Crisis Arcs** occur in Backroom.

Private Notes

While delegates physically remain in Frontroom, they can write messages to the Backroom called **Private Notes** throughout committee.

Backroom responds to delegates' crisis notes to tell them the outcome of their attempted actions and prompt further action.

Crisis Arcs

Delegates' goals for advancing their personal powers and influencing the outcome of committee through the Backroom is called a **Crisis Arc**.

PUBLIC DIRECTIVES

You'll notice that public directives look very similar to resolutions you might see in General Assembly. Some key differences are that directives will...

- ...be much shorter than a resolution. We are looking for around 1 page or less (unless directives are merged)
- ...not have preambulatory clauses. They will only have operative clauses
- ...take direct action on an issue. This means the committee does not have to seek permission from a higher authority to do something (assuming said action is realistically within the scope of their power/the topic)
- ...take effect immediately.

Directive Example

Directive: Rule of Law

Sponsor: Maximin Isnard

Signatories: Charles-Louis Antiboul, Léger-Félicité Sonthonax, Jean-Baptiste Drouet, Jean-Paul Marat, and Stanislas-Marie Maillard

1. Establishes an oversight committee with the purpose of dictating military movements
 - a. This committee will have the purpose of ensuring orderly operations on domestic operations, including the discipline of subordinate soldiers, ensuring security, and handling protests
 - b. This body will consist of 12 members of the National Convention, with the members being established via a system based on the political makeup of the body at large
2. Establish a clear no quartering mandate within domestic grounds by our soldiers
3. Establish a central budget for the military, in addition to the state at large

PRIVATE NOTES

Private notes serve to take discrete action in the backroom, allowing delegates to advance their personal arc.

When writing private notes, delegates should write in the first-person from the perspective of their assigned character. They choose a character (who is not in committee) to write to, which can be real-life people or made-up characters. Delegates can choose to write to the same person in each note or write to multiple people.

There are a few things delegates should keep in mind when writing crisis notes. MUN at the University of Chicago suggests remembering these with “The Three R’s”:

- **Resources:** Does your character have an army, land, or lots of money? Powerful connections? Influence over a local town?
- **Request:** What is it you wish to do? You may request to utilize your resources or you may ask a question about your resources.
- **Reasoning:** What is the purpose behind your request? How will it impact committee or help you achieve your long-term goals?

To my assistant Charlie,

I hope you are enjoying the new Mercedes Benz I sent over as a company vehicle. Once you ride in style into work, I could use your help on the following tasks:

- I would like to use some money from my personal estate to create an internship program for some of the brightest minds in Business and Hospitality.
- Once I recruit these businesspeople, I would like to open a new casino called the Lotus Hotel. I'll invite highly influential political leaders to a conference hotel where I begin spreading the word about my new political movement and try to gain support.
- I'd also like to place spies at the restaurants inside the Hotel to see if any of the politicians spill secrets we can use in the future.

TL;DR: Open a hotel to spread my political movement to politicians and gather secret intel.

Note: At NVMUN, private notes will be limited to three bulleted items (an additional couple sentences of introduction or conclusion is permitted). A TL;DR explaining the overarching goal or direction of a note is not required, but is appreciated.

CRISIS ARCS

In writing private notes, delegates assume the role of their character and act with the power and resources that character would have. Thus, delegates can use crisis notes to advance their personal powers. Furthermore, Backroom will integrate the most influential elements of delegates' crisis notes into crisis updates. This means that delegates can use crisis notes to secretly impact what happens in the Frontroom.

In developing a crisis arc, delegates may choose to start gathering resources, amassing power, and building influence without a long-term goal, then deciding how to use these resources once they have them. Alternatively, delegates may choose to start with a vision for what they would like to accomplish long-term, and gathering the resources needed to achieve this goal.

What should your end goal be in committee? While that's up to you to decide, some things you should consider are: what the overall purpose of the committee is, the relevance or role of your character to the committee, and what final outcome of committee would be best for that character.

Crisis Arc Example

Main Goal(s)	Secondary Goals	Small Steps
End the war	Bring the French in	Establish business connections
		Send false intel about potential attack on the French
	Increase weapons supply	Get pirates for shipping
		Fund development of a new super weapon
Increase personal power	Gain university student support	Use nephew to start political club at Oxford
		Blackmail social media influencers
	Gain media influence	Buy newspaper
		Use Facebook bots

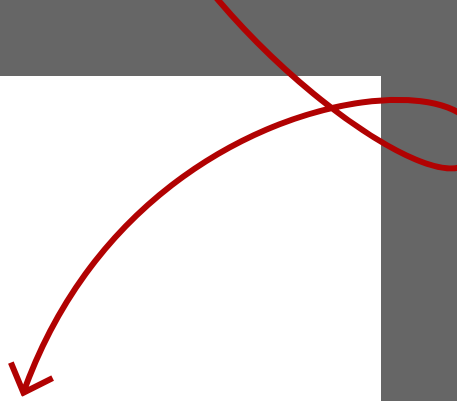
FLOW OF DEBATE SHORT-FORM



- Roll Call
- Introductions + Housekeeping
- Debate Opened
- Crisis Update
- Substantive Debate
 - Moderated Caucuses
 - Unmoderated Caucuses
 - Round Robins
 - Public Directives
 - Two-Notepad System
 - Private Notes
 - Voting Bloc
- Debate Closed or Adjourned

FLOW OF DEBATE

IN-DEPTH



Committee will be called to order. Roll Call will be done and the Dais and Crisis Staff will introduce themselves and go over housekeeping.

Committee will begin with a Crisis Update from the Crisis Staff. Crisis Staff will take a few questions from delegates regarding the first update as well as the scope of committee, then they will depart to Backroom.

Debate will open. In Crisis, there will be no setting the agenda, whiteboard session, or Speakers' List. Thus, delegates may immediately motion for Moderated Caucuses to discuss the first Crisis Update as well as any overarching issues presented in the Background Guide. Delegates may also motion for Unmoderated Caucuses and **Round Robins** at any point.

Round Robins

A Round Robin is a type of Moderated Caucus in which every delegate present gives a speech on a specified topic for a specified speaking time in order of seating arrangement (the delegate who motions will decide whether the Round Robin goes in clockwise or reverse-clockwise order). Round Robins are highly recommended at the beginning of committee or after significant Crisis Updates to give each delegate an opportunity to voice their thoughts on the Crisis Update.

FLOW OF DEBATE

IN-DEPTH



Crisis takes place entirely in substantive debate, and delegates may begin working on public directives and private notes as soon as the crisis update is delivered. Backroom will be coming in regularly at specified intervals (we will most likely have 45 minute – 1 hour cycles, though this may be amended according to committee needs) to collect private notes and deliver responses to previous notes. **There is to be no writing of crisis notes or directives during voting bloc.**

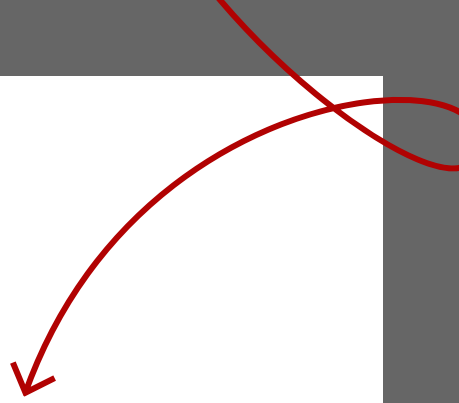
Delegates will move in and out of voting bloc multiple times throughout committee as directive cycles will be fairly quick. Delegates motion to enter voting bloc and present directives, and have the option of including for-and-against speeches or Q&A periods following each directive presentation to their motions.

Two-Notepad System

While Backroom is responding to a delegate's first notepad, delegates will have a second notepad in the frontroom to write private notes on. When Backroom returns delegates their first notepad with responses to their crisis notes, they will collect delegate's second notepad to respond to while delegates write a new note in response to the note they just received from Backroom on their first notepad. This cycle continues throughout committee and creates a Note Cycle.

FLOW OF DEBATE

IN-DEPTH



Thus, delegates in a Crisis committee will have to simultaneously participate in moderated and unmoderated caucuses, collaborate with one another on public directives, and write private notes to advance their crisis arc. Delegates must decide how to divide their time between these tasks at their discretion, and should be aware that both frontroom and backroom presence will be taken into consideration in determining final awards.

If this information is all new to you, don't panic! Simply reading this guide is a fantastic step in preparing for success in Crisis. Your chairs at NVMUN understand that many delegates are new to these concepts and they will take into consideration how delegates are feeling throughout committee and adjust things accordingly.

Feel like things are going too fast-paced? Need more time between note cycles? Or maybe some guidance and feedback on writing public directives? Don't be afraid to raise your placard and voice these needs with your chair at any point in committee. You can also request to speak with Backroom about your crisis arc throughout the conference.

THANKS!

We hope this guide has been helpful and can't wait to welcome you to NVMUN!

QUESTIONS?

Feel free to reach out to us at unlvmun@unlv.edu with any questions about the material covered in this guide.

RESOURCES USED:

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