

SHUMUN XXI

Crisis 101

How is a Crisis committee different than a General Assembly (GA) committee?

While a GA committee is made up of a lot of different delegates representing countries, a Crisis committee is made up of delegates representing certain people. In a GA, delegates come together to discuss two set topics, but in a Crisis committee delegates will have to deal with many problems, or “crises.” Delegates will have new problems arise during committee sessions, either started by the crisis team or by other delegates in the room. In a few words, Crisis is dynamic, fast-paced, and surprising.

What is crisis/what is the crisis room?

“Crises” are problems that arise that delegates will have to deal with through personal notes, called “crisis notes,” or committee action, called “directives.” Crisis notes are notes that delegates will write to the “crisis room.” Literally, the crisis room is a set of staffers who respond to these notes. In the scope of MUN, the crisis room represents the outside world. Directives and crisis notes are ways the committee can influence the outside world. The crisis room decides the reaction of the outside world and crafts the story of the room as it is influenced by committee.

What is a directive and how is it different than a resolution?

A directive is not the same thing as a resolution. A directive should not contain perambulatory clauses. A directive should only be made up of operative clauses. Operative clauses are the clauses where action is taken, and plans are made. A good directive will contain specific language and information to ensure that all plans are complete. Think: who, what, when, and how.

How do I write a crisis note?

Crisis notes are either written in letter style or in command style. In letter style, the delegate will pretend to write to someone (be it a friend, a secretary, a family member, etc.) to ask them to complete tasks and/or give them information. In command style, the delegate will directly tell crisis what action they wish to take or ask for information. Remember to start small and accumulate resources, then decided what to do with these resources. Big committee actions need careful planning and good, complete crisis notes that form a larger “crisis arc.”

Crisis Note Example (Letter Style):

To My Secretary Mary,

I hope this letter finds you well. Can you analyze my finances at the current moment and report back to me on how much money I have? I would like to take \$1,000 of that money and hire a bodyguard. He is always to follow me around and will help me with any duties I need accomplished. Please let me know what his name is. Also, I would like to contact my roommate Chuck from college who is now employed at Boeing. Tell him we can grab coffee tomorrow. What does he say?

Thanks,

Paul Smith, Secretary of Defense