Model UN: prepare to represent a country

Ages 14 and up, Model UN clubs, 60 minutes

Each delegate builds a one-page position profile of the country they represent and checks every claim they plan to make.

BEFORE THE LESSON

Assign countries. Each delegate opens the delegate brief for their country; print the PDF for those without a screen.

STEPS

1. Open your country's delegate brief. Write down its closest and most distant voting partners. (10 min)
   https://nationsrelations.org/delegate
2. Read 'Votes cast almost alone'. Choose two and find out, in the linked UN record, what the text asked for. (15 min)
   https://nationsrelations.org/delegate
3. Look at the position on the voting line and the big three. Who will you approach first, and who will oppose you? (10 min)
4. Draft three sentences for your opening statement. Put each claim you make into the claim checker and note what the data holds. (15 min)
   https://nationsrelations.org/check
5. Pair up with a delegate from a likely opponent. Using their pair page, find one thing you share. (10 min)

QUESTIONS FOR DISCUSSION OR WRITING

Which of your country's votes would an opponent bring up first?

Where is a vote a poor guide to what a government wants?

What would you ask a delegate whose country voted yes where yours voted no?

KEEP IN MIND

A vote shows how a government voted on a text, not why. Do not present these numbers as your government's reasons.

Pages used: Delegate briefs https://nationsrelations.org/delegate; Check a claim https://nationsrelations.org/check; Group brief https://nationsrelations.org/brief

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