



# US Senate Handbook

This committee is a simulation of the upper house of the United States Congress: the Senate. In real life, it consists of 100 members, two from each state. It is important to point out that representing a Republican does not necessarily mean that you are against racial justice and vice versa for Democrats.

## Roll Call:

- Senators will be called in alphabetical order by the President of the Senate (the Chair)
- Senators must answer either present or present and voting.
  - *Present and voting will impede you to abstain.*

## Pledge of Allegiance:

- At the beginning of each committee session, the President of the United States Senate will recite the Pledge of Allegiance.
- Once the Pledge of Allegiance has been recited, the chamber is now open for debate.

## During the debate:

- **Motions:**
  - Instead of the typical “all those in favor and all those against”, the Chair will call delegates one by one, and everyone has to answer either YEA or NAY. (Raising your placard is optional)
  - Motion for a filibuster
    - What is it? An action taken by senators, designed to prolong debate and delay or prevent a vote on a bill, resolution, amendment, or other debatable question.
    - Purpose: interrupt/delay debate in order for the other party to not take action.
    - Any senator is allowed to do it.
    - For this Model UN conference, it is at the president’s discretion to allow it.
    - To break the filibuster, any senator can propose a motion for such a purpose.
- There has to be a 2/3 majority vote to end it.



- If the motion succeeds - the senator must suspend their participation.
- If the motion fails - the senator can continue with the speech.
- **Removing a delegate/senator:**
  - You can technically remove a senator from the committee, but more than  $\frac{2}{3}$  of the delegates have to agree.
  - If this were the case and a senator does get expelled, the delegate would be assigned a neutral position in the debate.



- This would not affect the delegate's possibility of getting an award
- **The chair (president of the Senate) will advise the senators on the usual motions, points and rights.**
- **Senators are allowed to use personal pronouns for themselves but are required to address other senators in the following ways:**
  - Senator (Last name). Ex: Senator Sanders.
  - The Senator from (State). Ex: The Senator from Maine.
  - My friend from (State). Ex: My friend from Virginia.
  - My colleague from (State). Ex: My colleague from Texas.
    - In these last three cases, if there are two senators from the same state, the speaking senator should add Mr. or Ms. and the Last Name of the senator they are referring to. Ex: My colleague from Massachusetts, Ms. Warren.
- **Senators are representatives of their entire state. They should take into account the interest and particular aspects of the state they represent, both when preparing their position paper, and during all parts of the debate (including working papers and voting procedures).**

### Position Paper:

- **Specific Guidelines:**
  - Delegates can write their position papers in first person: from the perspective of their corresponding senator.
  - Delegates can put their senator's opinion, but not their personal opinion.
  - The content of the position paper is the same as a regular position paper:
    - paragraph 1: explaining the conflict
    - paragraph 2: senator's position
    - paragraph 3: possible solutions
- **Heading (in the following order):**
  - Delegate's Name
  - Senator's Name
  - Committee
  - Delegate's School

### Working Papers:

- Once the working paper passes it will become a BILL



- In order for a working paper to become a bill, there need to be two speakers for and two against and ⅔ in favor to pass
- Senators must first send a draft of their Bill to the Chairs for approval.
- Once approved, the Bill sponsors may motion to have the Bill presented
- No more than five sponsors will be invited to read out the Bill in its entirety to the committee.
- Senators need to include the leader from each party as sponsors
  - Republicans - Mitch McConnell
  - Democrats - Chuck Schumer