

Effective Caucusing at GatorMUN

Caucusing accounts for a great amount of time spent in the United Nations, where diplomats and their staff gather outside of formal session to discuss problems and solutions, try to compromise, and draft written responses (resolutions) to the aforementioned problems. Diplomats may meet on their own accord or meet in regional, economic, or other blocs to reach a group consensus. In Model United Nations, and especially in large committees, caucusing is an effective tool that delegates can use to write working papers, discuss issues with other delegates personally or in blocs, and try to convince other delegates of their ideas.

A **Moderated Caucus**, which happens at the discretion of the Chair, can be more effective than using a Speaker's List in small committees, where speaking at the front of the room is not necessary because delegates speaking at their seats can be seen and heard by all other delegates in the room. This is especially effective in a committee where tables are arranged in a circle. A Moderated Caucus is generally not feasible in a large committee setting. A delegate moving for a Moderated Caucus must specify the length of the Caucus and the Speaking Time. The Chair moderates the Caucus and chooses speakers from the delegates who raise their placards. The Chair may appoint a delegate to be the moderator of the caucus. A delegate moderating the caucus is unable to partake in the debate.

A style of Moderated Caucus that is used less frequently is a "**Round Robin**" Moderated Caucus where one delegate speaks for a set amount of time, followed by the delegate sitting next to him or her. The Round Robin Caucus moves around the room clockwise or counterclockwise and delegates may choose to abstain from speaking or "pass" and speak before it is time for the first delegate to speak again. This style of caucus is ineffective in large committee settings.

An **Unmoderated Caucus** is effective in both small and large committee settings. This is where the real work happens! Delegates may use an Unmoderated Caucus to write working papers, continue debate, present ideas and solutions to others, and gather in blocs according to interest or region. Though not in formal debate, a delegate must remember to be respectful.

Here are a few tips for Unmoderated Caucusing:

Have a goal in mind. Unmoderated Caucuses happen for a limited amount of time so delegates should enter with goals outlined, such as the goal of starting to write a working paper by the end of the caucus, or finishing and submitting a working paper. Having a goal in mind will help delegates keep track of time better as they can gauge progress.

Gather in your bloc. Generally the European Union states will work together, as will the League of American States and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations. If a committee is small and only contains a few members of each bloc, generally developing states will work amongst themselves and developed nations will gather together, as they have similar interests.

Gather outside of your bloc. Though working with countries with similar interests is important, it is also important that delegates communicate effectively across the entire committee, whether it is through debating, sharing an idea with another delegate or group, asking for thoughts and

opinions on a proposed solution, or asking for proposed solutions on a topic. This way, delegates can create unity throughout the committee, incorporate more ideas into working papers, and join together groups who have similar views on problems. Remember that the United Nations generally tries to reach a group consensus.

Share ideas with other delegates and listen to the ideas of other delegates. Another delegate may suggest an important element that should be considered or added to a working paper. Provide constructive criticism and refrain from negative criticism even if you completely disagree with another delegates' position. This is not only how diplomats work, but also a respectful practice. Speaking with other delegates one-on-one is better for learning about another delegates' position, whereas gathering in a large group is better for brainstorming.

Make concessions. Be ready to negotiate on certain terms, but remember to stay in the character of your country. Working together to achieve consensus is the goal of the United Nations, but if your country believes that something is an absolute necessity to a resolution, be prepared to fight for it if it is an unpopular idea, even if this includes drafting an Unfriendly Amendment.

Be respectful. Do not interrupt delegates who are speaking--give others the same attention when they speak, as you want them to have for you. Be polite and do not treat others rudely. Provide constructive criticism instead of negative criticism. Making inappropriate remarks and harassing other delegates is not only rude and disrespectful, but also unacceptable and prohibited at all GatorMUN conferences.

Keep track of time. Remember that an Unmoderated Caucus' time is limited and try to accomplish as much as you can. Having goals in mind upon entering a caucus can help you do this.