



USPE COMMITTEE GUIDE

IMUN Campaign Committees - An Official Guide

Debate flow:

3 topics will be posted on the IMUN website prior to the conference and each topic the delegates are required to write one policy paper together as a party together prior to the conference:

Structure of policy paper:

- Topic: (say the number or name)
- Party: (state your party)
- Issue overview: (write one paragraph giving an overview of the topic summarizing the main ideas)
- Policy statement: (what your policy aims to do in 1-2 paragraphs)
- Aims of the policy: (state how you will aim to do so in bullet points)
 - point
 - point
 - Point
- Stake holders (people affected)
- Advantages (of the policy state meant)

along with a 15-minute opening speech as a party. Each party will present its opening speeches in the first session.

The two opposing parties will be seated facing each other, with an external audience being brought in each session to observe the debate. These audience members will be the voters who will vote for either candidate. They will only be present for a single debate session and will constantly rotate in order to mitigate bias and to garner a large voter base.

The parties will come up one by one in front of the House and present their legislation on the topic at hand. Then the main submitter will give a two-minute speech as to why this legislation should be passed and its implications on the topic at hand. After that, the opposing party will be able to ask one question per person regarding the legislation. (This procedure is similar to presenting a resolution.) After the first party is done, the second party will do the same, and both parties will sit down to get ready to engage in the debate.

Please note that the main submitter for the legislation at the start of each topic must be different.

Next, the debate mediator (the president/chairing panel) will begin by asking a question to one of the presidential candidates. These questions will be prepared by the chairing panel ahead of time, and the delegates will not have access to them, so they must answer on the spot. After the question is asked, the delegate will have 90 seconds to give their response. Then, the debate mediator will ask the opposing party if any member has a rebuttal they would like to give. Each question is only allowed 1 rebuttal, and no "re-rebuttal". The opposing party will raise their placards, and the debate mediator will select one of them to give a 90-second response. Then, the process is repeated, going from one party to another until each delegate has been asked a question. (This debate flow is similar to the presidential debates that take place on CNN and other News Channels.)

At the end of the debate session, the audience will cast their vote for the Democratic or Republican candidate anonymously. They will then be escorted out of the committee by the security, and a new panel of voters will be brought in for the next debate session. The voters can consist of other IMUN team members, staff, security, guests, or MUN directors. The delegates will have no prior knowledge of who will be voting.

Filibuster:

A filibuster is a speech that is conducted in the committee to delay legislation proposed by the opposing party. The way that this form of debate will be introduced in the committee is by stating a motion to Filibuster. This motion has to be seconded by all members of the party that raised the motion. Once all members agree that they should move to the Filibuster debate format, the committee will commence a filibuster. The debate format will go as follows: the party will have 3-5 minutes to prepare this speech. Additionally, they have to prepare bullet points that will be submitted to the panel that state why they decided to raise this motion, and the panel has to approve that they are valid points that are presented (if the panel disagrees, then the debate on the filibuster will not continue).

Once the points are submitted, the committee will begin filibustering. The main representative of this legislation will begin their speeches on why the legislation of the opposing party should not go through. The speech should be 10 minutes exactly. Once the speech is presented, the opposing party will then have 2-3 minutes to prepare a rebuttal.

Then they will present their rebuttal speech on the filibuster that will last 5 minutes exactly. Then the committee will have a moderated 10-minute debate on the filibuster itself. Finally, the parties will have 1-2 minute speeches to wrap up their points in a closing speech, and the filibuster debate will end, and the voters will vote on the filibuster if passed (the legislation fails and the opposing council or failed. NOTE: The Motion can be raised once per topic by each party. If the panel disagrees on the motion, then the party will have used their filibuster and cannot raise the motion on that topic again.

Sample policy paper :

Topic 1 Economy Policy

Party: Republican

Issue overview:

The housing crisis in the U.S. has reached critical levels, marked by soaring prices and a severe shortage of affordable homes, leaving many individuals and families struggling to secure stable housing. Rising demand, coupled with stagnant wages and increasing construction costs, has made homeownership increasingly unattainable, particularly for first-time buyers.

This crisis is further exacerbated by an insufficient housing supply, with millions of new units needed to meet current demand. As a result, many Americans are facing challenges such as rent burdens, housing insecurity, and diminished economic mobility. Addressing this crisis is essential for promoting equitable access to housing and ensuring the long-term stability of communities across the nation.

Policy Statement:

Housing Costs: Providing \$25,000 in down payment assistance for first-time home buyers and calling for the creation of three million new housing units within the next four years, proposing a tax credit for developers who build starter homes, and investing \$40 billion in an “innovation fund” to tackle housing shortages. Harris noted on Wednesday the independent Federal Reserve’s decision last week to cut interest rates for the first time for homebuyers.

Aims of the policy:

- **Expanding Affordable Housing Supply:** Solution: Increase federal funding for affordable housing projects by expanding the Low-Income Housing Tax Credit (LIHTC) and National Housing Trust Fund (NHTF). Provide incentives for developers to build affordable housing through tax breaks, subsidies, and streamlined zoning laws.
- **Federal Support for Local Housing Solutions:** Launch a federal grant program that allocates resources to local governments based on their unique housing needs. Support zoning reforms that enable more mixed-use, high-density housing developments, particularly around public transit hubs, to promote affordability and sustainability.
- **Combating Housing Discrimination:** Strengthen the Fair Housing Act by enhancing enforcement mechanisms, increasing penalties for discrimination, and expanding resources for fair housing education. Introduce a national "Fair Housing Equity Fund" to provide legal aid to victims of housing discrimination.
- Proposing a tax credit for developers who build starter homes
- Investing \$40 billion in innovation funds to tackle housing shortages

Stakeholders:

- tax payers
- citizens of America
- the less fortunate minorities in the nation

Advantages:

- down payment assistance
- New housing units
- tax credit for developers
- \$40 billion innovation fund
- Interest rates cut

Obstacles and rectification:

- Inflation increases the costs of living for Americans
- Growth in rent is exceeding the overall rate of inflation