



Youth Action Committee

Participant Guide



Youth Action Committee

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A Description of the Youth Action Committee

We partake in MUN as a first step to understanding the world and the reality we live in, which conversely shapes us as individuals into both global and domestic citizens. In the Youth Action Committee (YAC), we are now giving the opportunities to MUN participants to take the civic responsibilities and apply them in real world thinking. While understanding foreign policies is imperative, we hope to encourage participants in the YAC to develop their own ideas and thoughts about contemporary issues — as global citizens — stepping aside from the simulated UN and into the real world.

The YAC is meant to be a small committee that deals with issues that are pertinent to society by encouraging discussion amongst global thinkers and students. The goal of the Committee is to generate solutions that directly target contemporary social issues that are often outside the scope of international issues that MUN usually revolves around.

The YAC welcomes participants of any level of experience in MUN, as the committee specializes in its unique procedures by which participants can engage in formalized structures of MUN while representing their own perspectives. We hope that this may empower problem solving and critical thinking skills of participants who wish to voice their perspectives in making change.

This year, as part of our theme of “Protecting the Unprotected”, we want to deal specifically with the rights of minority populations subject to discrimination from the wider majority. Hence, the new Youth Action Committee, a forum dedicated to the open discourse of contentious debate, will be set to discuss the following issues:

- The question of ensuring equal rights in public and private accommodation for the LGBTQ community
- The question of recognizing prisoner rights in facilities, treatment, trials, and sentencing
- The stigmatization of societies in relation to prostitution, sexual assault, and rape culture

We hope that participants enjoy partaking in this new forum at PASMUN and are welcome to any feedback in regards to the committee.

The Guide for Panelists

Opening Statements

Duration: 2-3 minutes

- All panelists deliver their opening statements on the first day of the conference.
- Opening statements should address the stance of the panelist on each of the issues.

Lobbying

Duration: 1 hour to 1.5 hour

- The YAC will follow staggered lobbying.
- In each lobbying session, panelists will draft an Action Paper on a single issue.
- The draft Action Paper will include a concise pre-ambulatory section and several operative clauses.
- Since the aim of YAC is to adopt an Action Paper on contentious topics for countries, organizations, and other relevant actors to implement, effective lobbying is crucial.

Procedures for Lobbying/Debate:

- The debate/lobbying on the Action Paper proceeds issue by issue.
- The rounds of talks on the Action Paper as a whole will be set by the Presidents of YAC. Every round will consist of a lobbying and debate session.
- Panelists merge clauses in as a whole; hence, there is no “co-submitter signature form.” However, the formation of informal sub-groups consisting of panelists with similar views to accelerate the process of lobbying is encouraged.
- There is no “main-submitter” in YAC. However, there is a “submitter of a clause,” who is the panelist submitting the clause to the Presidency.
- The “submitter of a clause” is the first speaker during the debate of the particular clause during sessions.
- Panelists do not go through the Approval Panel, but submit the clauses directly to the Presidency. The Presidency approves the clauses after

checking for grammar mistakes, formatting errors and plagiarism. Panelists' clauses must receive a President's approval in order for them to be debated during sessions.

NOTE:

- Before coming to the conference, panelists prepare a number of clauses on every issue. These clauses then get merged and debated as an Action Paper.
- Panelists are encouraged to actively lobby and merge their clauses with other panelists.
- Operative verbs that a panelist can use (**bolded**) and cannot use (*italicized*) are as follows:

<i>Accepts</i>	Calls upon	<i>Endorses</i>	Proposes	Strongly urges
Advices	Congratulates	Expresses its satisfaction	Recommends	Suggests
<i>Affirms</i>	<i>Confirms</i>	Expresses its hope	Regrets	Supports
<i>Approves</i>	<i>Declares Accordingly</i>	Further recommends	Requests	Trusts
<i>Asks</i>	<i>Deplores</i>	Hopes	<i>Resolves</i>	Transmits
<i>Authorizes</i>	<i>Designates</i>	Invites	Seeks	Urges
Calls for	Encourages	<i>Proclaims</i>	<i>Strongly affirms</i>	

Action Papers

- The aim of the YAC is to propose Action Papers that solve and directly target contemporary issues.
- The contents of the Action Papers may be more specific and intrusive than ordinary MUN resolutions and may overstep the national sovereignty of countries by proposing policy changes to governments, actions to be taken by organizations, or general proposals to the public.
- The Presidency is responsible for compiling Action Papers into a final Action Proposal, which will likely be submitted to a relevant organization, in presentable fashion.

Rules of Procedure

Debate Sessions

Duration: Depends on the allocated time set by the Presidents of YAC

Procedures for Debate

- Panelists are to refer to themselves as “the Panelist” or may choose to use personal pronouns.
- Panelists are to refer to other Panelists by “Panelist [Full Name]”.
- Debate is conducted in clause-by-clause format.
- Clauses are debated in a vacuum (closed debate) unless there are clauses that have already passed, in which case panelists may, and only may, refer to clauses that have already been passed.
- Panelists are to refer to themselves as “the Panelist” or may choose to use personal pronouns.
- After taking the floor, a speaker may choose to open him/herself to points of information and proceed to:
 - Yield the floor back to the chair,
 - Yield the floor to another panelist.
- **NOTE:**
 - Follow-ups are allowed in YAC, but they are to be granted at the Presidency’s discretion.

Procedures for Voting:

- When voting on clauses, panelists may vote for, against or abstain; no panelist holds the veto power.
- A supermajority (i.e two-thirds of the present committee) is required for a clause to pass.
- Panelists may withdraw clauses at any time except during voting procedures.
- Prior to voting procedures, the chairs may declare that the clause under consideration may be adopted with simple majority if they see this to be essential for the debate.
- **NOTE:** Voting procedures for motions follow the rules outlined in the THIMUN Rules of Procedure.

Procedures for Amendments:

- Amendments are conducted in a closed debate format.
- The panelists may submit new clauses as amendments after all clauses submitted during lobbying are debated.
- When an amendment fails, the submitter does not retain the floor.
- Voting procedures for amendments is the same with that of clauses, except that amendments require a simple majority.

Miscellaneous

Note-passing

- Note passing between panelists is allowed during the debate sessions.
- All notes from panelists are screened. However, notes from/to the Presidency will not be screened.
- The Presidency may suspend note passing if they feel that it detracts from debate.
- Note passing is also suspended during any form of voting.

Other

- Active laptops are permitted during debate. However, the administrative staff will be screening laptop screens to ensure panelists remain focused.
- Singing, informal jokes, clowning, knocking on tables, interrupting speakers etc. are out of order.
- Eating and drinking during debate is out of order. Water is an exception.

Dress Code:

- All male Panelists should wear their ties and blazers at all times (especially when speaking); female panelists may use their discretion to dress appropriately, formally and professionally.

Plagiarism:

- The Presidency checks clauses for plagiarism after they have been submitted. The restatement and/or copying of previous MUN and UN resolutions are considered plagiarism.
- Operative clauses found to be plagiarized will not be debated.