



GUIDE FOR BACKGROUND GUIDES

Dear Delegates,

We have prepared this document which will guide you through the elements of your “Background Guide”, to help you in with your work. We will describe the parts and intentions of the Background Guide. Please take the time to look through the entire document as we describe the parts here.

At the top of your Background Guide is your committee. Please take note of the full name of your committee and make sure you have the correct Background Guide for the topic you will be working on. There is a Background Guide for each topic. There is also a brief description of your committee as well as the name of the current leader/president of the committee. Next follows the Introductory paragraph and Objectives.

You will see the following major headings next: **Introduction to the Topic, Background, Current Challenges and Solutions**. Under each of them you have the following elements - Key Terms, Guiding Questions, Country Focus and Resources. In addition, we list relevant past UN Resolutions at the end, along with some questions for “Adolescent Reflection” for middle school students. Please take the time to locate these sections and elements.

The Background Guides center around the “**Guiding Questions**”. These questions are meant to inspire you in your research and encourage you to have conversations with your co-delegate and teacher. They reflect what you might hope to find out. These questions guide you to research aspects of the topic that might interest you. Rather than giving you a single explanation and perspective of the topic, the questions will point you to information relevant to aspects of the topic that interest you.

You are not expected to answer every question. Instead, choose the question or questions that you are interested in pursuing. Your specific interests and pursuits will give you a certain level of knowledge and expertise which you will bring to the conference. As all negotiations are now done through sub-topic groups, you can focus on the specific aspects of the topic that inspires you more personally, within the given general, greater topic.

Let’s walk through each of these sections and elements...

MAIN SECTIONS

Introductory Paragraph and Objectives: This section tells you a brief story behind this topic, a bit of its history, its current situation and where the committee hopes the situation will be in the immediate future. The portion that says: Objectives is a list of some specific outcomes that the committee hopes to achieve towards meeting its bigger goal; hopefully leading to the resolution of the issues.

Introduction to the Topic: This section provides the key ideas and gives you the basic information for better understanding of the issues presented and of what the topic is focused on.

Background: Gives you the background of the topic including past actions and activities that have been done to resolve the challenges.

Current Challenges: Gives you the information regarding the current issues and most pressing challenges around the topic. You may focus on one, several or all of the challenges that the topic is trying to overcome.

Solutions: Taking into consideration the information you found regarding the challenges of the topic, this section is focused on helping you craft and develop global solutions to address the topic. Of course all solutions must be in line with the position of the country you represent.

UN Resolutions: Gives you the relevant UN Resolutions on the topic

Adolescent Reflection (meant for MS students): Invites you to think about the connections and relevance of the topic in your lives; how it affects you and what you think you can do, in your own ways, to help resolve the issues presented by the topic.

ELEMENTS

Key Terms: These are key ideas or concepts that you need to know. Like a key, knowing what the terms mean unlocks the “main doors” to your topic; allowing you access to the basic information you need to explore the topic further.

Guiding Questions: The Guiding Questions extend the information of the key terms; inspiring you to investigate and explore further. There are Guiding Questions in each of the sections of your Background Guide.

Country Focus: Helps direct you to your country’s experiences and perspectives on the topic. It adds important information into the research you are doing about your country; spotlighting your country’s position. We are suggesting that you put together all the answers in the Country Focus element to help you see a clearer and specific picture of your country’s position on the topic and its important priorities.

Resources: A place to begin. The background guides only use resources gathered from the United Nations. This will keep all our information absolutely in sync with the perspective of the international community through the lens of the United Nations itself. You will need to find supplementary resources to continue your exploration of the topics.

Annotated Resource to Aid Comprehension: To further help you in your work we have included one example of an annotated article. Annotated articles give explanations or comments in the form of an outline of the main points described by the author or questions that guide your understanding of paragraphs; as well as definitions of unfamiliar vocabulary or acronyms listed in a glossary at the bottom. You are encouraged to highlight phrases or words that are unfamiliar as well as important information, using different colors of highlighters. Categorizing the highlighted information is a good way to organize them. Some suggested categories are: Facts, Examples, Causes, Effects, Actors, Stakeholders.

At the end of this guide are some additional information to help you find statements or speeches, directly from ambassadors and Heads of State. This is factual information about your country's position and priorities.

We hope these changes help you get even more out of the preparation process. The whole team is here to assist, and if you have questions or specific concerns, please don't hesitate to reach out by emailing info@montessori-mun.org. Thank you for your passion. We are excited to see the full and diverse committee sessions that follow from these background guides.

See you in committee!