

Common Points & Motions

A simple guide for our MUN-ers

Introduction

Points and motions move the course of the debate. They allow individual delegates to assert influence on the process of the debate in an orderly fashion. Use of these during the debate demonstrates your mastery of MUN parliamentary procedure.

Points

◦ **Point of Information**

MUN-term for “question.” This point is raised when the chairs open the floor to these at the ends of delegate speeches. If you believe your question was not answered completely, or could be clarified, you may ask for a **follow-up**. Note that the follow-up must be relevant to the original point of information.

◦ **Point of Personal Privilege**

Raised when the delegate experiences personal discomfort. This is the only point that is allowed to interrupt a current speaker. You may raise this point for the following reasons:

- if the current speaker is inaudible or speaking too fast
- if you are unable to see the projected screen
- if the room is too cold or too hot
- if you don't have access to water/chargers/note paper, etc.

If you must go to the restroom, you do not need to use this point. Simply hand over your lanyard to a runner and retrieve it once you come back inside. You may always look to your runners for assistance.

◦ **Point of Order**

Raised when a delegate believes that the chairs have made a mistake in running the committee. This point must pertain to parliamentary procedure, and not to the subject at hand.

◦ **Point of Parliamentary Procedure / Inquiry**

Raised when the delegate has a question for the chairs regarding parliamentary procedure.

Motions

◦ **Motion to Set the Agenda**

This motion is raised at the beginning of the first session to get the debate started by *setting the agenda*—meaning determining as a committee which topic to debate first.

Ex. “The country of [name] moves to place [topic A] first on the agenda, followed by [topic B].”

- **Motion to Set the Speakers Time**

Determines or changes the amount of time a delegate is allowed to speak for. This requires a simple majority vote.

- **Motion to Add Points of Information to the Speaker’s Time**

Extends the number of questions to be asked a speaker. While raising this motion, please specify how many more points of information you propose to add. The delegate raising the motion is automatically entitled to the first point of information.

- **Right of Reply**

If another delegate insults your country, you may use the “right of reply.” When used, you may defend yourself and demand an apology.

- **Motion to Open/Close the Speakers List**

Makes a list of all delegates wishing to take the floor and deliver a speech. Only speakers on the list may speak, unless it is opened again. The order on the list is the order that the delegates will speak in. The motion requires a simple majority vote.

- **Motion to Suspend Debate and Move into Moderated/Unmoderated Caucus**

Takes the committee into a session of **moderated caucus**—a type of informal debate where the chairs call on delegates one at a time to make a speech—or a session of **unmoderated caucus**—a second type of informal debate that is much like lobbying & merging. Note that when raising this motion, you must set the topic, total time, and/or speakers time.

Ex. “Motion to suspend debate and move into [*time*] minutes of moderated caucus addressing [*topic*], with a speaker’s time of [*time*] seconds.”

- **Motion to Adjourn Meeting**

Ends the committee session until break, lunch, or dinner is over.

- **Motion to Move to Voting Procedures**

Skips the remainder of the debate and moves the committee directly into the voting process. This motion concludes debate on the subject at hand, whether it be on an amendment or resolution.

- **Motion to Divide the House**

If there are enough abstentions to make a difference in voting results, this motion forces all those who have abstained to vote “for” or “against.” This could potentially change the results of the previous vote.

**most motions require “Seconds”