

ACGMUN

Conference

Youth Assembly Manual

Pierce – The American College of Greece

The Youth Assembly explained.

The Youth Assembly (YA), although referred to as a committee, differs fundamentally from other committees in how it functions. One of the unique characteristics of the Youth Assembly is that participants do not represent a country but rather their own opinions. As a result of that participants in the Youth Assembly are addressed by their first names.

The most significant distinction from the rest of the committees is that the Youth Assembly aims to address MUN newcomers and is *lower in size*. Additionally, the participants work in smaller groups during the drafting process of the action paper and as a result cooperation and collaboration are enhanced through participation in it. In conclusion, all these make the Youth Assembly friendlier for participants who wish to start and continue doing MUN.

What's the process of the Youth Assembly?

During the YA's session, three issues will be addressed by the Youth Assembly, and three action papers will be created. The Youth Assembly is led by one Head and has several Co-Heads (rather than Chairs or a President). The creation of one Action Paper for each topic is the major goal of the Youth Assembly. These papers ought to explain the significance of the problem at hand and offer viable solutions.

The three conference days should be used to have in-depth discussions about the papers' substance, and by the end of the third day, the papers should have been completed. The participants interact on the first day of the conference while the Heads attempt to help them be more comfortable and familiar with each other and at the same time outline the process.

The start of the YA sessions is a process resembling lobbying. Small groups of students are formed, and each group works on a distinct facet of the subject. One group might be in charge of a problem's causes or effects, another of potential economic, political, or legal solutions, and so on. It is up to the discretion of the Heads whether the committee will address the next topic informally or whether it will finish discussing the first one entirely before going on to the next. The discussion on one or both papers is continued and completed on the last day. The Heads, with the help of the YA delegates, type all the solutions into an Action Paper in the appropriate format (found below). By the end of the session, three documents must be turned in.

Understanding the Purpose of an Action Paper:

The result of the three days of discussion and work by the Youth Assembly participants is the Action Paper, a shorter version of a resolution. It ought to take the form of a report, a letter of petition or a letter that is published, in which problems are addressed and suggestions are put forth in an effort to persuade the intended audience to take the suggested action. The two

components of the action paper are the Analysis section and the Solution section. Here is more information about both sections:

- As its name implies, the *Analysis* section analyzes the subject at hand. This section outlines and defines the present issues, current solutions, key contributing causes, and other things. The preambulatory clauses of a resolution are similar to the section.
- The *Solution* section should include suggestions for resolving the issue. It comes after the *Analysis* section and is longer in size. Its measures must be specific, practical, and precise. The phrase "further governmental funds should be encouraged" and similar phrases are inappropriate. The ideas should include details on the "what," "how," and "who." The following would be a more precise and appropriate variation of the aforementioned example: "The governments should provide additional funds to schools that meet the requirements such as..." The operative clauses of a resolution, resemble to this section.

A brief introduction and conclusion should be included in the Action Paper, and both should be written by the Heads at the conference. There may be multiple sub-categories in each section's main body. The students should draft it, and the heads should type it (unless the members can). Although full sentences are preferable, bullet points are also acceptable.

What Pre-Conference Preparations are Necessary?

Research is the next stage in preparation after reading this manual and being familiar with the Youth Assembly's procedure. Each participant should conduct in-depth research on their subject. The internet, books or publications, news agencies and whatever else the participants have access to are some examples of potential resources.

The students should have a thorough understanding of the issue, the contributing components, and some potential solutions after finishing their research. The next step is to put all of these thoughts on paper. The Analysis and Solution section of the action paper should be the only part of the draft that the students prepare. A MUN Advisor, teacher, or parent may edit this paper but may strictly not write it! To have a few backup ideas during the debate and the preparation of the Paper, participants in the Youth Assembly should bring their draft action papers with them to the conference.

What are the rules of the YA?

- Head/Co-Head: The students in charge of planning, directing, and evaluating participants' work as well as providing them with guidance and assistance.
- Students may be addressed as participants, members, or by their first names.
- To create draft solutions, the Assembly members collaborate in groups or teams.

- The other students might question the speaker for clarification after a speech. The inquiries are referred to as "points of information"
- Solutions, recommendations, measures, actions, etc., rather than clauses, are discussed, not debated.
- Students may make revisions throughout the discussion, and after each action paper has been discussed, voting occurs. Keep in mind that in the YA, the terms "floor", "house", "alliances", "lobbying", "delegate", "chair", "resolutions", "points", and "motions" are not acceptable.

Be aware of the following:

- The MUN dress code and general behavior standards, such as respecting other participants also apply to the Youth Assembly. Formal English will be used exclusively during all conference proceedings.
- The suggested measures should not be dependent on the United Nations as it should be noted that relying on the UN for suggestions made by young kids would be somewhat impractical. The action papers typically focus on local communities and propose more modest remedies.
- Realistic and possible activities and procedures should be proposed.
- As this is a committee for beginners and you will possibly be a beginner when joining it, do not be afraid to express your own views and to elaborate on your opinion. The Youth Assembly is a safe place for all delegates as its purpose is to foster personal and diplomatic growth and help younger students dive into the world of MUN.

Closing Remarks

Congratulations Delegates! You are now ready to get started on MUN. We hope this manual was useful and helped you get a hint of what ACGMUN and the Youth Assembly is all about. We, thus, expect you to see you well prepared, ready to give your best and engage in fruitful debates.

We look forward to seeing you in our conference!

Best Regards,

The ACGMUN Secretariat