

10th **CGS MUN** Costeas-Geitonas School Model United Nations

Global Reform & Ethics



11-13 December 2015

Youth Assembly Manual

What is the Youth Assembly?

The Youth Assembly is an important organ of the Model United Nations. It could be considered a Committee, however, it bears some basic differences. It mainly addresses younger MUNers (7th-9th grade).

What is different about the Youth Assembly is that the participants do not represent a country but themselves. Therefore they are not referred to as “delegates”. Instead they are called by first name. In addition, the Youth Assembly is not as large as other Committees. It usually consists of 15-25 members. Another aspect is that team-work is promoted to a greater scale than in any other Committee. The participants work in small groups during all three days of the conference.

All of these aspects give to the Youth Assembly a more personal and friendly tone, which makes it an introduction into the MUN-world and a great preparation for students who wish to become delegates or even ambassadors.

How does the Youth Assembly work?

Precisely like the General Assembly consists of Committees that deal with different issues, the Youth Assembly consists of Action Papers, e.g. different topics for discussion, e.g. “Action Paper on advertising under the scope of ethics”. This year at CGSMUN, there will be only one group of participants (the Youth Assembly), which will deal with two issues and prepare two action papers (instead of one, as happened in previous years). The Youth Assembly has three Heads (not Chairs or Presidents!).

The main target of the Youth Assembly is to write one Action Paper per topic. These Papers should outline the significance of the topic at hand and provide feasible solutions. The content of these Papers should be discussed thoroughly during the three days of the conference, and the Papers should be ready by its end.

On the first day (Friday) the participants get to know each other, while the Heads mind to “break the ice” and explain the procedure. The discussion can start, however, it will still be unofficial. Nevertheless, it is a good introduction into the topic and something like brainstorming. A procedure similar to Lobbying follows. The students are divided into small groups (3-5 persons per group), and each of them works on different aspects of the topic. For example, one group will be responsible for the causes or the consequences of a problem, another one for possible economic, political or legal measures, etc. The Assembly can unofficially discuss the second topic too, or finish with the first one completely before moving on to the second – it is up to the decision of the members and the discretion of the Heads.

On Saturday the students can finish their work and write down their proposals. After that the official discussion starts (or they move on to the second topic, once done with the first). Each group presents their work, then other students may express their views and the discussion is heated up. The speakers can answer points of information. There is no voting, but if several disagreements occur the groups may re-write or withdraw some proposals.

On the final day the discussion on one or both papers is resumed and finished. The Heads are responsible for typing all the solutions into the proper form of an Action Paper. Two documents must be handed in by the end of the conference. The day can finish with remarks from the participants as well as the Heads.

What is an Action Paper?

The Action Paper, a simpler version of a resolution, is the outcome of the three-day-discussion and work of the members of the Youth Assembly. It should have the form of a report or petition letter, a published letter that proposes solutions and ideas and seeks to

persuade the target-readers to adopt the measures proposed. The hypothetical reader would be e.g. a Non-Governmental Organization (NGO), young activists etc.

It consists of two sections, the Analysis section and the Solution section.

The *Analysis* section (around 20% of the Paper) analyses, as the name suggests, the topic at hand, stating and defining the current problems, measures taken so far, the factors that play an important role etc.

The *Solution* section (around 80% of the Paper) should propose solutions concerning the problem. The measures should be concrete, feasible and detailed, i.e. proposals such as “further governmental funds should be encouraged” are not appropriate. The what, the how, the who should be specified. A more specific version of the aforementioned example would be: “the governments should provide though the ministries of education further funds to schools that fulfill the conditions such as...”

Both sections should be handled during their preparation work in groups. The Analysis can also be the result of the first rough discussion on the issue and should not bother the members a lot, since the Solutions should be their primary goal.

The Action Paper should have a short introduction and conclusion (written by the Heads during the conference), while the main body (Analysis and Solution sections) can consist of several sub-categories in both sections. It should be prepared by the students and typed by the Heads (unless the members have it on USB sticks). There are no special linking words, since the Action Paper looks more like a report. Full sentences should be preferred, but bullet points are perfectly in order as well.

There is no set word limit; however, the Action Paper should be “short and simple”, i.e. the reader should not be burdened with unnecessary and too detailed information. If the Paper needs to be shortened, the Analysis section should be reduced, rather than the Solution section.

What should be done prior to the conference?

After reading this manual and being familiar with the procedure, research is the first step. All participants should carry out thorough research into their topic. Possible resources are the internet, encyclopedias, friends or relatives who may have an idea of the topic and specialised book or magazines. After completing the research, the participants should have a clear idea about the problem, the factors involved and possible solutions.

The next step is to write down all of these ideas. The students should prepare a draft action paper, which will consist just of the Analysis and Solution section. This paper could be corrected (but not written!) by an MUN Advisor, teacher or parent. Participants in the Youth Assembly should have their draft action papers with them during the conference, in order to have some stock ideas during the discussion and the preparation of the Paper.

Vocabulary/ Rules

Head/ Co-Heads: The people who organise, supervise and correct the work of the participants, answer their questions and guide them.

The students can be referred to as participants, members or called by name.

The Youth Assembly's work is carried out in one Assembly, which prepares Action Papers. The members of the Assembly work in groups or teams in order to prepare draft solutions.

The students can speak one after the other and have to stand up. If the number of the students that wish to speak is limited, they should raise their hand and be recognised by the Heads

After a speech, the other students can ask the speaker for elaboration. The questions are called "points of information". When students wish to ask the Heads something, they can simply raise their hand and say "I have a question".

The discussion (not debate) refers to solutions, proposals, measures, actions, etc. and not clauses.

There is neither voting procedure nor amendments. If there are serious disagreements on some proposals, they can be re-written or withdrawn by the group that presented them.

(Note: the expressions "floor", "house", "alliances", "lobbying", "delegate", "chair", resolutions, amendments, points and motions are not valid in the YA)

It should be minded that:

- the official language during all procedures is formal English.
- the MUN dress code and general behavior rules (such as respecting the other members) apply also to the Youth Assembly.
- the solutions proposed should be independent from the United Nations (as it would be a little unrealistic to rely on the UN for

measures proposed by young students). Instead, local authorities, governments and NGOs can be referred to.

- the proposed actions and measures should be realistic, feasible, documented. A good idea would be if the students asked themselves: “with the information provided by the Paper, could the project be realized?”
- the importance of research should not be underestimated, as poorly prepared students cannot actively participate and as a result the quality of the discussion is limited.

Conclusion

The Youth Assembly is an interesting and helpful challenge, especially for MUN newcomers! Work is of course essential, but the precious experience will definitely pay-off! We are looking forward to seeing you all in our school!