

MODEL UNITED NATIONS OF THE UNIVERSITY OF CHICAGO

MUNUC's Guide to the
MODERATED
CAUCUS

What is a Moderated Caucus?

"Mods" are timed, formal sessions of debate.



Focus on solving a small piece of the larger issue.

Use mods early on in the conference to flesh out and debate different ideas.



Example

Topic: Intellectual Property Rights of Pharmaceuticals

You could hold a moderated caucus on the smaller subtopics of the duration or logistics of government-granted patents. Delegates from different countries will present their views on the issue and help you identify potential allies - countries with a similar stance as yours.

Why propose a moderated caucus?

In Model UN, we discuss topics with the aim of solving issues. Moderated caucuses give us a structured way of discussing solutions to the issue at hand.



Focused Topic

The topic for the moderated caucus is narrow and focused, making conversation more productive.



Time Limits

Each person is given a specific amount of time to speak, and the discussion has a set time limit.



Potential to Extend Discussion

You can motion to extend the moderated caucus if you think more discussion should occur on the topic.

How do you propose a Mod?

Let's start with an example and then break it into pieces to explain how to propose a mod.

Delegate raises their placard and says "Motion for an 9 minute moderated caucus, with a 45 second speaking time, on the topic of the duration of government patents."

Part 1: Length of Mod Caucus

How long the discussion will go for - 9 mins in this example. If the time is not enough, you can propose a "Motion to extend the current moderated caucus by x mins".

Part 2: Speaking Time

How much time each delegate has to speak - 45 secs here. The length of the mod should be divisible by the speaking time. A 10 min mod with 45 sec speaking time would not divide evenly, but a 5 min mod with 1 min speaking time would give exactly 5 speakers.

Part 3: Caucus Topic

Choose whichever topic you feel is most important for the committee to discuss at the moment. Make sure that the topic is not too broad or too narrow. Here, the topic is the duration of government patents.

Additional Mod Caucus Logistics

If you motioned for the moderated caucus which passed, you get the choice of either speaking first or last in the caucus.

If you would like to make a speech, simply raise your placard when the Chair asks for which delegates are wishing to speak.



Say the speaking time is 1 minute per speaker and you finish your speech before your time has elapsed. At the end of your speech, you can say that you "Yield my remaining time to the Chair."

MUNUC Tips & Tricks

1

Mods are a conversation. Think about mod caucuses as an ongoing conversation between the delegates of the committee, just with a bit more formality than your typical conversation.

2

Connect your points to what others have said. Acknowledge points made by other delegates, and remember to be polite and respectful, even if you disagree with someone else's point.

3

Stay on topic. It's sometimes easy to get sidetracked, so keep sight of the larger picture. Is your point related to the topic of the moderated caucus?

4

Back your points with data. Showing off your research or any related data you've found are great ways to ground the points you're making.

Moderated Caucus FAQs

How should I structure my speech in a moderated caucus?

There's no one right way, but it is important that your speech flows well and your points are clear. These speeches are quite short - 45 - 90 sec typically - so be concise. We suggest that you organize your speech by structuring your thoughts into a few key points. If you have extra time at the end of your speech, you can briefly recap your points.

What should I talk about in my speech?

In the beginning of the conference, you can explain your country's stance on the issue and introduce your plan - this is also when you'll hear other delegates' ideas to see who are potential allies. As the conference progresses, your speeches will get more specific, discussing pros and cons of different solutions and persuading the other delegates that your bloc's plan is the one they should support.

Can you speak multiple times in mod?

You can, but it's good to listen to the ideas of other delegates and make sure everyone has a chance to speak. Your Chair will likely encourage those who have not yet spoken in the moderated caucus to give a speech before allowing delegates to speak another time.