

General Talking Points for the 2004 Washington State Model UN Program at the University of Washington

- ✚ The Washington State Model United Nations Conference is a unique platform for high school students learning about international affairs and strives to promote diversity and outreach to many educational communities across Washington State including high schools and observers from others states and abroad.
- ✚ This conference unlike other MUN conferences at other universities and high schools strive to promote diversity of participation and outreach to different educational communities.
- ✚ This conference is organized by the Washington State Model United Nations Student Association at the University of Washington. It is sponsored through the University of Washington's Office of International Affairs in cooperation and partnership with the World Affairs Council, the UW Henry M. Jackson School of International Studies and the United Nations Association, Seattle Chapter.
- ✚ Over 600 high school students participate each year from over 34 high schools from school districts across Washington State.
- ✚ The WASMUN conference was originally funded by the Gates Foundation through a World Affairs Council grant in cooperation with the University of Washington.
- ✚ The International Studies Center of the Jackson School of International Studies organizes workshops for teachers participating in the program.
- ✚ On-site teacher and student trainings can also be arranged through the International Studies Center at the Jackson School of International Studies for a limited number of requests.
- ✚ This conference provides a foundation for raising community awareness on issues of international affairs and the workings of the United Nations and its fundamental practices for diplomatic negotiation
- ✚ It provides a venue for high school students to engage in international affairs and to gain first hand experience and skills in dispute avoidance and conflict resolution.
- ✚ The skills honed through active participation in such conferences are highly applicable to other areas of student interests and broader life experiences.

- ✚ The conference also provides a broader understanding of international organizations such as the United Nations, World Bank, NGOs and its roles in global engagement.
- ✚ MUN is an alternative method of education that uses experiential learning to allow students to engage with pertinent community issues. It encourages interaction and dialogue as the key means of resolving disputes.
- ✚ Observers will be able to engage with the academic community at events such as the Delegate's Reception, which will bring the students, conference supporters and interested community members together in an informal setting that can facilitate open discussions about the MUN. Participation at Teacher Workshops can be facilitated upon request.