

Formatting a Resolution

OBJECTIVE(S)

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Identify the proper punctuation of a resolution
2. Know what words are and are not appropriate to use at the start of clauses
3. Recognize mistakes in a draft resolution

REQUIREMENTS

Level: 7-12 Grade(s)

Time: 30 minutes

Materials Needed

1. Sample Resolution handout
 2. Resolutions to Correct
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PROCEDURE

I. Lesson Introduction/Activation of Prior Knowledge

Remind students of the work they did in writing a resolution and understanding the general ideas of how a resolution sounds and how it is composed. Inform them that today you are going to go one step further, and look at the specific formatting and punctuation that goes into writing a resolution. Explain that the more accurately they are able to write resolution the first time around, the less time they will have to spend during committee reworking and editing the small features of their resolution, and that their director will be able to read and understand it more easily.

II. Activity

Distribute the Sample Resolution and go over some of the rules for formatting a resolution. These include:

- At many conferences sponsors and signatories should be listed in alphabetical order, though not all Model UN rules are strict about this.
- The name of the body should follow the heading and precede the rest of the resolution, followed by a coma.
- Preambulatory clauses should begin with a present participle (usually a verb ending in “ing”) that is either underlined or italicized and followed by a coma.
- Operative clauses should be numbered, begin with an underlined present tense verb, and end with a semi-colon.
- If an operative clause is in need of sub-clauses, it should end with a colon before the sub-clauses. Sub-clauses may be set off by letters or roman numerals, but must be consistent. Each sub-clause should follow the main clause in a proper sentence structure, so that each can be added to the main clause and reads as a proper phrase. Sub-clauses should be separated by comas, with the final sub-clause ending with a semi-colon.
- The penultimate operative clause should include the word and after the semi-colon.
- The final operative clause should end in a period. It should be the only period in the document.

Pass out the Resolutions to Correct. Have students work individually to find as many mistakes as they can. There are substantive issues, but they need not be addressed. The errors are as follows:

Resolution 1.1

- Sponsors and signatories may be listed in alphabetical order.

- The second preambulatory clause should begin with “stressing” instead of “stresses.”
- The grammar in the third preambulatory clause is awkward.
- In operative clause 1, CWC needs to be fully specified.
- In operative clause 2, the letters setting of the sub-clauses need to be either both capitalized or both lower-case letters.
- In sub-clause b, strike the words “This Trust Fund will.”
- After the semi-colon at the end of sub-clause b there should be the word “and.”
- Operative clause 3 should end with a period rather than a semi-colon.

Resolution 1.2

- There is no way this draft resolution has enough signatories to be introduced to the committee.
- The words “The General Assembly,” should go between the heading and the body.
- The first preambulatory clause should end with a coma.
- Operative clause 3 should begin with “reiterates” instead of “reiterating.”
- There should be an “and” after the semi-colon at the end of operative clause 3.
- The General Assembly is not allowed to use the word “Condemns.”

III. Closing/Wrap-Up

Reconvene as a class and have students point out all the mistakes they found. If there are any that everyone missed, point those out as well. See if students notice anything else. They should recognize that the two resolutions can be combined into a single resolution.

OPTIONAL ACTIVITIES

Future In-class Follow-Up for Teachers

Have students write their own resolutions and trade with a partner to correct them.

Homework

Ask students to combine the two resolutions and rewrite them as a single draft resolution.

Formatting a Resolution

Look at the sample resolution and pay careful attention to how the resolution is formatted. How many mistakes can you find in this resolution?

- 4: Not bad
- 6: Good work
- 8: Great job!

Resolution GA/1.1

Sponsors: Syria, Norway, Botswana, China, Paraguay, United States of America, Belize, Argentina, Fiji, DPRK, Belarus, Belgium, Japan

Signatories: Ethiopia, Tajikistan, Iran, Canada, Mali, the Netherlands and Gabon

Topic: Nuclear Energy

The General Assembly,

Reminding the international community that the attainment of technology for the betterment of society is a sovereign right,
Stresses the importance of an IAEA that is active in the verification activities of all nuclear states,

Reaffirming the necessity to sustain and enforce the body of protocols and mandates set forth by the International Atomic Energy Agency,

1. Urges member states to reaffirm a commitment to complying with the CWC;
2. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund which would:
 - a. Derive its funding from voluntary pledges,
 - B. This Trust Fund will hire consultants that can advise on issues of disarmament and non-proliferation;
3. Stresses the continuing need for impartial and objective information;

What about this resolution? How many mistakes can you find? Do you notice anything about these two resolutions as a whole that might help the committee?

Resolution GA/1.2

Sponsors: Iran, Libya, Syria

Topic: Nuclear Energy

Noting with appreciation the marked benefits associated with the peaceful and responsible utilization of nuclear energy;

Cognizant that the process of assessing energy needs is most beneficial when undertaken on a case-by-case basis,

1. Encourages bilateral and multilateral agreements that would address energy concerns in the developing world;
2. Calls for the development of a United Nations Trust Fund that encourages voluntary donations to aid in the funding of dismantling excess nuclear arsenals;
3. Reiterating a call to improve the free-flow of information with regard to the safe utilization of nuclear energy;
4. Condemns unwarranted actions that have deleterious consequences on innocent civilians.