

Boston College High School

Model UN Conference



XXXIII

# The United States Political Climate Ad Hoc Crisis Committee



Chair: Michael Roosevelt

Co-Chair: Evan Concannon

Crisis Director: Tyler Boie

## Table of Contents

Letter from the Chair.....	3
Letter from the Co-Chair.....	5
Letter from the Crisis Director.....	6
Crisis Guide.....	7
A General Guide to Model UN Crisis Committees.....	7
What is a Crisis Committee?.....	7
Key Elements of a Crisis Committee.....	7
The Structure of a Crisis Committee.....	8
Overview.....	8
General Debate.....	8
Moderated/Unmoderated Caucuses.....	8
Round Robins.....	8
Miscellaneous Information/Advice.....	9
Directives:.....	9
Key Skills for Success.....	10
Writing Effective Directives.....	10
Writing Crisis Notes.....	10
The Three Rs: Resource, Request, Reason.....	11
Example Note A.....	11
How the Backroom Might Reply.....	11
Example Note B.....	12
How the Backroom Might Reply.....	12
Tips, and Common Pitfalls to Avoid.....	12
About the Committee.....	14
Questions to Consider.....	16

## Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

My name is Michael Roosevelt and I am currently a Junior here at BC High. I started Model UN here as an 8th grader, and have loved it ever since. I have attended several national college conferences such as NAIMUN ( Georgetown University ), SMUNC ( Stanford University ), and BRUINMUN ( UCLA ). These conferences were a truly amazing experience and I would recommend it to anyone who has the opportunity to go. I have also been fortunate enough to participate in other activities at BC High like rowing. I have been rowing on Varsity since Freshman year, and I have loved every single minute of it! There is just something really special about being on the water with all of your best friends every day after school. At this conference last year, I served as the Co-Chair of the Hunger Games Crisis Committee. This committee was absolutely insane. It went from a simple committee about the Hunger Games, to having a black hole open turning delegates into various Star Wars characters and Avengers. We have an amazing group of crisis staffers this year who will do their best to make the committee fun, but it all starts with you. I also understand that this is an advanced committee and many of you are looking to win awards. We will be looking a lot more favorably upon the person who takes a stance that is different from everybody else. As Ralph Waldo Emerson once said: “ Do not go where the path may lead, go instead where there is no path and leave a trail.” The best piece of advice I can give anyone here is to be a trailblazer. I can’t wait to see you all on March 1st!

Best,

Michael Roosevelt ‘26

[ms.roosevelt26@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:ms.roosevelt26@students.bchigh.edu)

## Letter from the Co-Chair

Greetings delegates,

My name is Evan Concannon, and I am a junior here at BC High. I have been very involved with Model UN since I was a sophomore, going to big college conferences such as Stanford, or small ones such as St John's prep. This is my second year being involved in the BC High MUN, and my first year co-chairing. I try to go to all the conferences I can when I can, and my favorite are the crisis committees. Crisis committees thrive on creativity and improvisation, allowing for insane outcomes. In addition to MUN, I am on the rowing team at Bchigh, and rowed at Head of the Charles. Being with your friends gliding over water while you are fighting for something bigger than you is surreal. Many of those same friends do MUN, such as the chair and Crisis director. Last year, the crisis director and I were on an Julius Caesar assassination crisis team together, with demigods, trials, spy networks, and major political unrest. Mark Antony really played into his character, giving laughs to many other delegates. I have found that my most memorable conferences are ones where the delegates really got into their roles. My chair, myself, and our crisis team have put a lot of hard work and thought into ensuring this committee will be one you won't forget. So, relax, get into character, and make this one crazy committee!

Sincerely,

Evan Concannon '26

[er.concannon26@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:er.concannon26@students.bchigh.edu)

## Letter from the Crisis Director

Salutations delegates,

My name is Tyler Boie. I've worked with crisis for three years now, starting as a planted delegate during a JCC Cold War committee, and sophomore year I served on crisis staff for a committee on Julius Caesar's assassination. I've also attended many local conferences. My favorite committees have always been the crisis committees. You can never know what to expect, and it comes down to compromises to get work done. Like the chair and co-chair, I love this topic. I myself am a huge fan of United States history and the political climate, and more than anything I appreciate healthy debate. Progress can only be made via disagreements. I hope that today you find people to argue with, and that you may share your opinions respectfully. Outside of Model UN, I row for BC High, I'm the captain of our Mock Trial team, and I love reading about American history. I love to debate, one of the many reasons I love Model UN. I hope that everyone has a great time, we've all worked so hard to make this as fun and chaotic as possible. If you're usually quiet and reserved, use this as an opportunity to step out of your comfort zone. Without further ado, have a blast!

Cordially, with lots of love,

Tyler Boie '26

[tk.boie26@students.bchigh.edu](mailto:tk.boie26@students.bchigh.edu)

## What is Ad Hoc?

Essentially, an Ad Hoc Committee refers to a committee where its delegates find out their position on the day of the conference. After the Opening Ceremony, the Co-Chair and I will walk you to our room. When we get there you will be assigned a seat with a folder in front of it. When instructed by the Chair, you will open the folder revealing to you all the research and information that you need.

## CRISIS GUIDE

By William Yang Goodwin & KinJia Wong  
Three Kingdoms JCC

### A General Guide to Model UN Crisis Committees

Model UN Crisis Committees differ from traditional General Assembly (GA) simulations by introducing fast-paced, dynamic scenarios requiring quick thinking, diplomacy, and most importantly, adaptability. This guide provides an overview of how to approach crisis committees, including a run-down of the structure, along with some strategies and skills needed to succeed.

### What is a Crisis Committee?

A Crisis Committee simulates a high-stakes political, economic, or military situation where delegates represent specific characters or countries, often within smaller groups. These crises evolve rapidly, with new events, problems, or developments being introduced in real-time, which require immediate action. Unlike GA sessions, where discussions are slow-paced and consensus-based, crisis committees focus on quick, decisive moves and seizing the initiative.

### Key Elements of a Crisis Committee

- **The Crisis Itself:** A real or fictional scenario (e.g., a war, political upheaval, or natural disaster) that forms the central problem to resolve. Unlike a GA, each delegate has powers of their own, called "Personal Powers" or "Portfolio Powers."
- **Committee Structure:** Smaller groups with 10-20 delegates, each representing a unique position. This can be a country, or in our committee, a single person.
- **Crisis Updates:** Frequent updates from the backroom (people running the crisis behind the scenes) that alter the scenario. These could be unexpected events designed to throw you off, but most of the time they will be updating you on the happenings of the other committees.
- **Directives:** Delegates submit "directives," which are formal written instructions to handle the crisis. These directives can be individual or collective and can cover diplomatic, military, economic, or political actions. Directives will be covered in more depth later.
- **Personal Crisis Arcs:** Individual characters may have personal goals or ambitions that affect their actions and influence how they interact with the crisis.

## THE STRUCTURE OF A CRISIS COMMITTEE

---

### Overview

The procedure in crisis committees varies from other types of committees you may be used to. There are some key differences in the committee, which will go through different crisis steps in debate. It is important to note that this is only an overview with general guidelines and that chairs/co-chairs have the right to make any procedural changes they see fit during the committee.

### General Debate

- I. Debate will always open with a roll call; to which all delegates respond “present” or “present and voting”.
- II. Crisis committees are generally less uniform in debate, with NO motions for speaker’s lists.
- III. Rather, the primary forms of debate in crisis committees are round robins, moderated caucuses, and unmoderated caucuses.
- IV. Due to the nature of a smaller-sized committee, delegates can offer a point of inquiry, without permission from the chair, as long as someone else is not speaking.
- V. Speeches are usually much briefer (20-30s), so it is not recommended to yield your time to other delegates.

### Moderated/Unmoderated Caucuses

- VI. Moderated caucuses are formal debates, and the chair will individually recognize delegates to speak by raising their placard.
  - A. When motioning for an Unmoderated Caucus, you must clarify the topic, total time, and speaking time.
  - B. If there are not enough speakers, delegates can speak multiple times in a single moderated caucus.
  - C. If there are no other points or motions, the debate defaults to a moderated caucus of the chair’s discretion.
  - D. Example: “Motion for a 5 minute moderated caucus with a 30 second speaking time on XYZ ” (Colloquially, a “five-thirty.)
- VII. Unmoderated caucuses.
  - A. Traditionally the total time of Unmoderated Caucuses ranges from 5-10 minutes at a time.
  - B. Crisis Committees have less unmoderated caucuses than General Assemblies.
  - C. During the time allotted during an Unmoderated Caucus, delegates are allowed to freely walk around and collaborate with other people.
  - D. Unmoderated Caucuses are normally used to write, and merge directives.
  - E. Example: “Motion for a 10 minute Unmoderated Caucus”

### Round Robins

- VIII. Round Robins are typically used as an alternative to the speakers list.
- IX. In a round robin, every delegate has the chance to speak, and the order is determined by where you are sitting around the room.
- X. Speaking times are generally limited to 30 seconds or less.



- XI. Round robins can be found most useful after a major crisis event/update, in which they will often be looked upon favorably by chairs.
- XII. Example: “Motion for a 30 second round robin”.

### Directives:

Committee Directives: Submitted on behalf of the entire committee and requires collaboration from multiple roles. They can range from military actions to diplomatic solutions. **In a BCHMUNC XXXIII crisis committee, a Directive requires a minimum of 3 sponsors and a maximum of 5.** The other specifics are left to individual Chairs’ discretion. The Portfolio Powers of a directive’s Sponsors will be considered regarding the directive’s execution, but Directives differ from Personal Directives in the fact that a Directive alone may carry the weight of the committee, or in our case, the resources and **will of the Emperor**.

Personal Directives: Submitted individually by delegates, these are often actions like espionage, moving troops, etc., but can be anything possible per your portfolio powers. Best used to progress your own goals—known as your “crisis arc”. Examples of effective Personal Directives and common mistakes delegates often make are listed below, in the **Writing Effective Notes** subsection.

Joint Personal Directives: The bread and butter of experienced crisis delegates, a Joint Personal Directive (JPD) is a way to write a Directive without needing it to be brought to a full committee vote. This is best used when two or more delegates need to combine their personal powers to achieve something, ie. a joint military maneuver, outfitting an army with new gear, or taking out an opponent with one-two combo in one fell swoop.

Press Releases: Public announcements that can be used to influence other delegates or the direction of the crisis. In our JCC, this can be an important way to communicate with the opposition, as **Press Releases are broadcasted to the other committee(s) and to the general public.**

### Key Skills for Success

In general, strategies good for a GA are good for a crisis committee. But the next few are especially important.

- **Adaptability:** Unlike traditional MUN, crisis committees shift rapidly. You need to be flexible and able to adjust your strategies as new information is revealed.
- **Creativity:** Think outside the box. We reward bold, innovative actions.
- **Diplomacy:** Even though crises are fast-paced, diplomacy is still at the heart of every MUN committee. Make alliances, maintain relationships, and know when to compromise.
- **Management:** handle pressure well, and be able to make quick decisions that balance both your personal arc and the greater needs of the committee.

## WRITING EFFECTIVE DIRECTIVES

---

**Be Specific:** Clearly outline the goal of the directive, the steps necessary to achieve it, what personal powers are contributing, and your best-case ultimate end goal of the directive.

**Coordinate with Allies:** When submitting directives, the more people the better. Working closely with other delegates to ensure your directive gains the necessary support.

**Anticipate Countermoves:** Be strategic by thinking ahead. How might the opposition respond to your directive? Consider crafting backup plans in case your initial strategy fails, and outline those in your directive as well.

**Keep Things Close:** **Your personal powers should be some of your closely guarded secrets.** It can make for a powerful negotiating point if they are revealed, but doing so could allow someone else to know your weakness and begin to tear down your arc.

### Writing Crisis Notes

Notes are the main component which separate traditional committees from those with crisis elements. You receive one or two notepads at the start of the day, in which you write plans, actions, questions, plots, etc. Think of this as writing to your private secretary who is able to act on your behalf outside the committee.

The dais will periodically collect these notepads and forward them to the backroom to respond to your note. If you use your notes effectively, you'll be able to promote your private interests, build alliances, use or even expand your portfolio powers, and obtain new resources for the committee.

Ultimately, notes build your importance and power in committee. With a series of well written notes, you can take the spotlight of the committee. The next "crisis break" can be about you and your plans, which is a good goal to have. When your notes are causing crisis breaks, you become more influential in the decisions of the committee.

Remember the following when writing notes:

The Three Rs: Resource, Request, Reason.

*(credit: University of Chicago, <https://munuc.org>)*

- I. **Resource:** All you need to do is state a reminder of what you already have. While this does not need to cover everything, it should be relevant to the next part of the note.
  - A. "I would like to access my granaries and *tael* reserves in Chengdu."
- II. **Request:** Keep requests small for the most part, these are more likely to be granted. Ask for anything which is an extension of your current resources. In addition, notes should **not** be

addressed to the crisis staff. They instead should be addressed as a letter might: to a character, such as a secretary, servant, or general, within the simulation setting.

- A. “Recruiters should be hired with the silver, and they should attempt to rally two armies of spearmen.”
- III. **Reason:** This final part is the most important in your note. It provides a justification for your request and gives the dais more insight into your ultimate strategy.
- A. “One army of spearmen will rendezvous with Ma Teng, the Unyielding Tiger of Liang, at our border with the Wei, and join his armies there. The other army will be left in reserve in Chengdu, defending the city and training the skills.”

### Example Note A

It hits all of the points above!

Dear Secretary Ming,

I would like to access my granaries and *tael* reserves in Chengdu. Recruiters should be hired with the silver, and they should attempt to rally two armies of spearmen. One army of spearmen will rendezvous with Ma Teng, the Unyielding Tiger of Liang, at our border with the Wei, and join his armies there. The other army will be left in reserve in Chengdu, defending the city and training their skills.

General Yao, (any other parties involved)

### How the Backroom Might Reply

Not only did the request get approved, you even received an additional option to strengthen your soldiers.

The recruiters were hired using two units of our *tael*, leaving seven in the treasury. The soldiers were received by the Unyielding Tiger at the border, and the other army is training outside of our capital, Chengdu.

The commander of the army commented to the messenger that his novice recruits are having trouble with poor weaponry and armor—and is requesting the lord three *tael* to outfit his men. If you do so, their power will surely increase!

### Example Note B

It is missing all the above!

To Crisis,

I would want to attack the border of Wei quickly and swiftly, and please execute our emperor to put myself on the throne.

### How the Backroom Might Reply

The request went through. but you got severely punished for the lack of specifics and reason for your actions.

You have sent three armies of trainee infantry on an expedition to the Wei border. Your men ran into armies led by your ally Ma Teng, the Unyielding Tiger of Liang, but began fighting them, confusing them with the enemy. One army was obliterated by the general's defending forces, while the other two, fleeing, suffered heavy losses due to illness and hunger.

You hired an assassin off the farmer's market, promising him one *tael* upon completion of the task. The attempt on the emperor's life went unnoticed, as his attempt to poison the emperor with extra salted pickles left him uncomfortable—but not dead.

### Tips, and Common Pitfalls to Avoid

**Tunnel Vision:** Don't become so focused on your personal arc that you ignore the broader crisis. You need to keep one eye on the larger committee while advancing your individual plans.

**Overcomplicating Directives:** While creativity is important, overly complex directives can slow down the committee or confuse the crisis staff. Keep your ideas clear and actionable.

**Acting Too Quickly:** While crisis committees reward fast action, acting too quickly and rashly can lead to poor outcomes. Take time to assess the situation before acting: slow is steady, and steady is fast.

## About the Committee

A major event from History has just occurred. A crisis meeting has been called with prominent figures to resolve the issue. The event has been brought to global attention, with foreign nations watching the response from the United States. A resolution is needed to establish peace, while also confronting the issue swiftly. Delegates do not know which of the 12 major events they are dealing with beforehand, and these events range from Watergate to the War in Ukraine.

Delegates will have to deal with unpredictable scenarios, and hold the future of America in their hands.

## Timeline:

- **Watergate Scandal (1972-1974):**
  - The Watergate scandal led to President Nixon's resignation
  - Shook Americans' trust in government and resulted in new laws to improve transparency.
  - **Key Roles:** President Richard Nixon, John Dean, Mark Felt, and Archibald Cox
- **End of the Vietnam War (1975):**
  - The fall of Saigon marked the end of the Vietnam War
  - shaped U.S. foreign policy and affected millions of veterans and civilians.
  - **Key Roles:** President Richard Nixon, Henry Kissinger, President Gerald Ford, Daniel Ellsberg
- **Iran Hostage Crisis (1979-1981):**
  - Iranian militants held 52 Americans hostage in Tehran for 444 days
  - impacted U.S.-Iran relations and shaped perceptions of America
  - More info

- **The Reagan Era and the Cold War’s End (1981-1989):**
  - Reagan’s policies included a military buildup and talks with Soviet leader Gorbachev
  - contributed to ending the Cold War and reshaping global power dynamics.
- **2000 Presidential Election and Bush v. Gore (2000):**
  - The contested election between George W. Bush and Al Gore
  - led to a historic Supreme Court decision over Florida’s recount.
  - The “hanging chad” controversy brought national attention to voting technology, election laws, and the role of the judiciary in elections.
- **The 9/11 Terrorist Attacks (2001):**
  - The attacks on the World Trade Center and Pentagon initiated the War on Terror
  - led to the invasions of Afghanistan and Iraq, and transforming domestic security.
- **The Iraq War (2003-2011):**
  - The controversial invasion of Iraq, prompted by claims of WMDs, had lasting impacts on U.S. foreign policy, military strategy, and regional stability.
  - More information
- **Hurricane Katrina (2005):**
  - This catastrophic hurricane devastated New Orleans
  - exposed flaws in disaster response and highlighting social inequities.
  - More information or get rid of
- **The Financial Crisis and Great Recession (2007-2009):**
  - The collapse of the financial system led to high unemployment, foreclosures, and federal bailouts, reshaping U.S. economic policies.
  - More information
- **Covid Epidemic (2019-2022)**
  - Lab born epidemic shutting down almost all public institutions at its peak
  - More information

- **January 6th Capitol Attack (2021):**
  - The storming of the U.S. Capitol by supporters of President Trump during the certification of the 2020 election results
  - was a direct challenge to democratic processes.
  - It sparked debates on election integrity, security, and the role of extremism in U.S. politics, with ongoing political and social ramifications.
- **Ukraine War (2022-current)**
  - Began with Russia's large-scale invasion of Ukraine
  - escalated tensions stemming from the 2014 annexation of Crimea and conflict in Eastern Ukraine.
  - caused widespread destruction, a severe refugee crisis, and significant global economic and geopolitical repercussions, with international efforts to resolve the conflict yielding limited success.
  - **Key roles:** President Joe Biden, V.P Kamala Harris

### **Questions to Consider:**

1. What is the root cause of this?
2. What is the best and most humane response?
3. How can you ensure that this never happens again?
4. What changes, if any, will be made?