



global**news**.org.uk  
 North Devon  
 Model United Nations conference  
**Student evaluation**



Model United Nations

## Evaluation of Model United Nations conference Barnstaple, 28<sup>th</sup> June 2006 based on students evaluation forms

**33 evaluation forms were completed by students.**

**Question 1:** What is your impression of taking part in a Model United Nations?  
 Please circle all words/phrases that you feel applies to your experience of today's MUN

Word/phrase	No.	Word/phrase	No.
Enjoyable	22	Complicated	4
Well organised	22	frustrating	3*
Worthwhile	20	Confusing	1
Informative	20	Boring	0
Exciting	7	Other words/phrases	4

**Other word/phrases** selected by students: interesting x2, not enough time x1 and good food x1

\*One student who marked frustrating commented, "in a good way – I liked arguing with stubborn nations"

**Question 2:** What was the **most enjoyable** part of the day?

Comment	No.
The final debate/plenary session/deciding on a resolution	8
Lobbying/informal debates	7
Lunch/time	4
The food	4
Voting	4
Debating	3
The committee meetings/smaller conferences	2
Meeting different people/pupils from other schools	2
Getting most of the votes!	2
Getting the first big clap!	1
Crash course in journalism	1
Arguing	1
Lunchtime performance	1
Meeting between USA/China	1
Getting compromises	1
Sharing ideas	1
Persuading others of our point of view	1
Discovering others opinions	1
Finding out about the science	1
Being in a UN environment	1
Annoying America	1
The scientist's presentation	1

**Question 3: What was the least enjoyable part of the day?**

Comment	No.
BLANK/None/it was all fun	6
Workshop/small committee/lobby groups (business)	3
America not agreeing/constantly disagreeing/being stubborn/reaching agreement with USA	3
Arguing	2
The hospital smell when entering the Civic centre (!)	2
Cramped conditions	2
Final plenary session	2
It took ages!	1
Workshop/small committee/lobby groups (environmentalist)	1
The food	1
Going into the lobbies	1
When other groups refused to compromise	1
First plenary session	1
Getting a headache near the end	1
Start and finish	1
Finish	1
Writing this sheet	1
Trying to persuade other countries of our views	1
Speeches	1
The opening speech	1
Going home/the end!	1

**Question 4: Please jot down some things you feel you learnt today, either about the United Nations or about climate change.**

- “There can always be an agreement”.
- “There are many different views from different countries”.
- “Agendas, effects of climate change, how a UN conference is run”.
- “Quotas and negotiation is hard”.
- “It is very hard to come up with a resolution everyone agrees with”.
- “The UN is a very difficult process”.
- “How the UN works”. (x2)
- “The UN use a majority vote”.
- “USA is disagreeable”.
- “I learnt that journalist write in as short sentences as possible”.
- “I have learnt how a UN senate works”.
- “The UN is a slow process”.
- “Not everyone agrees in the UN; the USA make 25% of emissions”.
- “More on what global warming can do and how to stop it”.
- “What effect climate change has on LEDCs”.
- “What effects that not only climate change has, but countries too”.
- “During [the scientist’s presentation] I learnt a lot”.
- “I learnt so much about the way government works and also about the facts of climate change”.
- “Too many to list”.
- “Everything really; I understood the countries more too”.
- “How it all works”.
- “How to be in a conference situation; conflict resolution; [that its] much more complicated”.

“It is much more complicated than you think”.  
 “That the UN is doing something about climate change”.

**NB** eight forms were left blank on this question

**Question 5:** Please jot down some **skills** you feel you used today [e.g. speaking in public, conflict resolution, reaching consensus, listening etc].

Comment	No.
Speaking in public	18
Listening	14
Conflict resolution	7
[building] confidence	3
compromising	3
People skills [interpersonal skills?]/social	2
Coming to a conclusion	2
Righting [writing?]	2
Reaching consensus	2
negotiating	1
diplomacy	1
Being polite	1
Concentration	1
Respect	1
Debating	1
How to be a journalist	1
communication	1
researching	1

**NB** One form was left blank on this question.

**Question 6:** A future MUN could be made better by...

“Having all the people the same age”.  
 “The Americans cutting down CO2 emissions”.  
 “Longer lunch...lobbying was fun”.  
 “Having examples of the amendments”.  
 “More countries/schools”. (x2)  
 Having more [better] organisation”.  
 “It was as good as it gets. It can’t get better”.  
 “It’s too good”!  
 “Understanding others views better”.  
 “Dressing up like we did”. (x2)  
 “Having better food”.  
 “Making the workshop more exciting”. (Environmentalist x1; business x1)  
 “Making the countries introduction better at the beginning”.  
 “Having longer to find information”.  
 “Having fresh air in the building”.  
 “More room/space”. (x2)  
 “Involving more people not just selecting people that generally don’t want to do it”.  
 “Ejecting people”.

**NB** eleven forms were left blank on this question.

## Conclusions from comments on the evaluation forms

1. The MUN was clearly enjoyed by students and they found it an informative and worthwhile experience. They also considered it well organised, though this was in no small part thanks to the teachers and students themselves who arrived so well prepared for the event and to North Devon District Council who provided the chamber and other rooms. The excellent coolheaded chairing by Mr Game also presented an atmosphere of organisation.
2. The final plenary session, the debate around a resolution and the voting came out as the favourite part of the day. Students also clearly enjoyed the informal lobbying; it would appear that students welcomed the opportunity to meet and talk with students from other schools.
3. Students comments reveal that this MUN was an excellent representation of a multinational process; students comments clearly show that the MUN accurately represented the difficulties and complexities associated with countries reaching an agreed position. The conference even correctly represented the nation that (on climate change at least) is the main stumbling block to agreement. Indeed, the MUN conference itself should be seen as a 'role model' of such events.
4. The process enabled students to experience at first hand how differences can be worked through and that through compromise and negotiation conflicts can be resolved and nations can agree a plan of action to tackle some of the world's most intractable problems.
5. Students felt that speaking and listening were the two most used skills on the day and a number of students also felt that conflict resolution and reaching consensus were important skills in the MUN.
6. Students were on the whole less enthusiastic about the smaller committees/ lobbying groups/workshops, though there were positive comments about the science presentation by Ben Booth from the Met Office. Clearer aims for and better planning of these would help in future MUNs.