

Writing an Opening Speech

Delegates should observe decorum when speaking. The opening of a speech should begin with: "Thank you- Honorable-Chair, Fellow delegates..."

An opening speech should include:

- Brief introduction of your country's history of the topic
- Past actions taken by the U.N., Member States, NGOs, etc. to combat the problem
- The current situation of the topic
- Your country's overall position on the topic/reason for position
- Possible ideas or goals for a resolution

Strong Attention Grabber – Pull your audience in with a thought-provoking question, anecdote or fact. *1-2 sentences*

Topic Introduction – Highlight the importance of the topic, linking it to your future solutions. *1-2 sentences*

Assert Your Position – State your country's position on the topic, express your priorities and set a foundation. *1-2 sentences*

Reasoning and Solutions – Outline your approach and how it solves the problem, and how it can work with other delegates. *As much space as you can afford.*

Tie it Together – Summarize your main point, close with something encouraging OR express the potential consequences if a resolution is not found. *1-2 sentences.*

TIP use: Facts, Examples, Quotes

Using these language devices can help to make your speech much more memorable:

Some **facts and figures** will add credibility to your speech. Make sure that you choose data that is directly related to your key points. Avoid overwhelming your audience with too many numbers; instead, focus on the most impactful ones.

- *"According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, there are currently over 70 million displaced people worldwide. This is the highest number since World War II. These individuals are not just statistics; they are people with hopes, dreams, and the right to live in dignity and safety."*

Examples help to clarify and reinforce your points. Use real-life examples that your audience can relate to or that vividly illustrate the issue at hand. Examples make abstract ideas more concrete and understandable.

- *“Consider the success of the Scandinavian countries in achieving near-zero waste. Sweden, for instance, recycles almost 99% of its household waste, with innovative systems in place for sorting and reusing materials. This highlights that with the right policies and societal commitment, it is possible to make significant strides toward sustainability and environmental conservation.”*

Quotes are another way to help make your speech more memorable. If you use a quote from a well-known person, it helps to make your entire speech sound more authoritative.

- *“To quote former UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon, ‘Saving our planet, lifting people out of poverty, advancing economic growth... these are one and the same fight. We must connect the dots between climate change, water scarcity, energy shortages, global health, food security, and women’s empowerment. Solutions to one problem must be solutions for all.’”*

Using a **list of three** can enhance the rhythm and impact of your speech. This technique groups ideas or items into threes, making them more memorable and persuasive.

- *“To effectively address climate change, we must focus on three key areas: reducing carbon emissions, investing in renewable energy, and promoting global cooperation. By tackling these three aspects, we can create a sustainable future for generations to come.”*