



THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY VIDEO SERIES

*Presented by: The Ambassador's Club at the United Nations &
American Model United Nations*



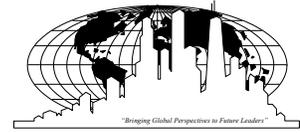
This document has been prepared as a companion resource for the General Assembly Video Series. It contains a set of worksheet questions and discussion points for the classroom. These are intended for the high school level, but may be appropriate for college students as well. Each Segment is broken into two parts. The first set of questions deals factually with the material presented in each Segment, and is intended to assist students in focusing on the presenters' main ideas while watching the video. The second set of questions is designed to evoke students' own perspectives on the information presented, to provide synthesis of the ideas presented in the video, and to stimulate conversation or debate among students regarding the material. These latter questions might be appropriate as written assignments or as starting points for classroom discussion. Students should be reminded that these "Part II" questions often ask for their opinions, and they should cite appropriate information from the video series and from current events in formulating their responses.

A second file contains the answers to the Part I companion questions, and is made available to purchasers of any of the Video Segments.



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Segment 1: An Introduction to the General Assembly

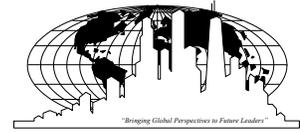
PART I

1. What are the six organs of the United Nations?
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2. How does the General Assembly differ from the other 5 organs?
3. What two documents provide the General Assembly with its powers and procedures?
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4. Which Article of the UN Charter defines the identity or “sovereignty” of the General Assembly?
5. How does Article 12 limit the authority of the General Assembly?
6. What are three powers of the General Assembly conferred by the Charter?
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7. What are the duties of the President of the General Assembly, as described in the Rules of Procedure?
8. According to Rule 36, who “supervises” the President of the General Assembly?
9. What are the eight rights of Member States?
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10. Which rule in the Rules of Procedure allows Member States to challenge a ruling of the President?



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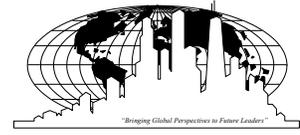


11. List five types of proposals Member States may present.
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12. What kind of amendment to a General Assembly resolution is **not** acceptable?
13. What is the only item which may interrupt voting procedure?
14. What is a proposal for no action?
15. Why are alliances important in the General Assembly?
16. What are the five regional groups in the General Assembly?
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17. What is the “cardinal sin” at the UN?
18. Why should points of order not be abused?



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Segment 1: An Introduction to the General Assembly

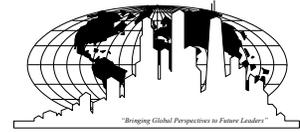
PART II

1. Why is it important that Observers and other institutions be seated in the General Assembly and be allowed to speak?
2. Do you feel that Articles 10 and 12 of the Charter conflict? Does the General Assembly truly have “sovereignty” as Amb. Kamal suggests?
3. Amb. Kamal describes the lengthy agenda of the General Assembly, and many ambassadors have commented negatively on the number of items discussed each year by the General Assembly. Do you feel that it would make the General Assembly more effective if the fourth right of Member States, to suggest items for inclusion on the agenda, were somehow curtailed or amended to limit the size of the agenda?
4. Do you feel that it is beneficial or detrimental to the effectiveness of the General Assembly that Member States may propose “killer” amendments to resolutions, as described by Amb. Kamal?
5. Which of the eight rights of Member States do Observers have in the General Assembly?
6. Can you think of a specific example of a situation in which a Member State might vote outside of its regional group?
7. Why would UN Member States never yield time to other Member States during debate? Think about the provisions of the Charter and the rights of Member States that Amb. Kamal described.



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Segment 2: Drafting of UN Resolutions and Decisions

PART I

1. What is the difference between a resolution and a decision?
2. Which resolution typically contains no preamble?
3. In general, what is the role of the preamble of a resolution?
4. What types of information are contained in the preamble?
5. Why would it sometimes be prudent to shift a preambular paragraph to the operative section?
6. What is the role of the operative section of a resolution?
7. What types of information are contained in the operative section?
8. What clause is typically used to conclude the operative section of a GA resolution?
9. List a typical “crescendo” in operative phrases.
10. Give an example of an **inappropriate** beginning for an operative clause in which the General Assembly is asking for Security Council action.
11. How might the General Assembly begin an operative clause asking Member States to take an action?
12. Why can the General Assembly use a stronger word such as “requests” when asking the Secretary-General to take an action?



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13. How would phrases containing “declares” and “decides” differ?

14. What preparations should be taken before writing resolutions as a MUN participant, according to Mr. Gazarian?

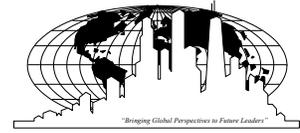
15. After a resolution is submitted, what actions should be taken?

16. What percentage of recent General Assembly resolutions have been adopted by consensus?



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Segment 2: Drafting of UN Resolutions and Decisions

PART II

1. Do you approve of the technical rules for writing resolutions? Why is it so important that resolutions be proper in syntax and style?
2. Why is it **not** recommended that the General Assembly use “demands” in its operative phrases, while Security Council resolutions often use this term?
3. Why would it be inadvisable for the General Assembly to “condemn” in its resolutions?
4. What message is sent by the adoption of resolutions by consensus?
5. Mr. Gazarian mentioned the importance of clarity and precision in resolutions, but also noted that many resolutions are ambiguous or vague. How can these differences be reconciled, and why would it benefit Member States to have resolutions of these two types?



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Segment 3: Interview with Ambassadors to the GA

PART I

1. What does Amb. Greenstock feel is the advantage of the General Assembly?
2. How does Amb. Greenstock justify the small size of the Security Council when compared to the General Assembly?
3. Name two criticisms Amb. Greenstock has of the General Assembly.
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4. What improved relationship does Amb. Aboul Gheit envision between the General Assembly and the Security Council?
5. According to Amb. Aboul Gheit, what is the significance of General Assembly resolutions?
6. Why does Amb. Greenstock object to the concept of the “sovereignty” of the General Assembly as Amb. Kamal describes? Give two solutions Amb. Greenstock provides for this problem.

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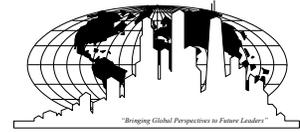
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7. What is Amb. Aboul Gheit’s greatest criticism of the Security Council?
8. What does Amb. Greenstock suggest for improving the perception of the Security Council?
9. What is one abuse of the Security Council that Amb. Greenstock and Aboul Gheit agree should be discouraged?
10. What two components are necessary for successfully passing a resolution, according to Amb. Greenstock?
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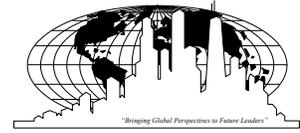


11. What two methods does Amb. Aboul Gheit describe for “killing” an unfavorable resolution?
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12. Which of the methods from question #11 was used to counter the European Union on the resolution addressing capital punishment?
13. Why, according to Amb. Greenstock, did neutral Member States side against the European Union on the capital punishment issue?
14. What two suggestions does Amb. Aboul Gheit give for Model UN students in their preparations?
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15. What does Amb. Greenstock see as a feature of Model UN simulations that might improve General Assembly debate?



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Segment 3: Interview with Ambassadors to the GA

PART II

1. Do you agree with Amb. Aboul Gheit's contention that the Security Council "usurped" the HIV/AIDS issue from the General Assembly? Consider his arguments and Amb. Greenstock's responses.

