

Delegates,

Since WestwoodMUNCVIII is being run as an entirely crisis-based conference, it is crucial for newcomers to be familiar with the rules of procedure, as it does diverge from some of the more traditional general assembly procedures. Please see below for a quick rundown of most of the rules we will be following for the duration of the conference:

I. Overview:

Crisis committees are run differently from “normal” Model UN committees. Because they run at a very fast pace, each committee is run in a series of moderated caucus, designed to maintain a rapid flow of debate, helping delegates adjust to crisis updates and such. The rest of the committee follows normal parliamentary procedure with a few notable exceptions.

II. Format:

As previously stated, the format of debate differs slightly from a general assembly in a crisis simulation. There is no speakers list and therefore, the default method of debate is the moderated caucus. Chairs will require the first motion being a round robin so as to ascertain the positions of others in the committee. This will serve as a good jumping off point to see who delegates are most likely to work with and who is most likely to get in the way of achieving their goals. After that, delegates will be able to motion for the “traditional” (un)moderated caucuses, round robins, straw polls, voting procedure, etc. In order to make any of these motions, a delegate must be recognized by the chair after raising their placards. Points and motions may be made between speakers, though note

that right of replies are rarely granted and are only allowed when serious insult to national or personal integrity has occurred.

III. Public Directives:

Delegates do not work to pass resolutions. Rather, they will pass a series of directives that are binding, take effect immediately and can potentially alter the course of events for the entire crisis simulation. A directive is a specific action that the committee wishes to take. Unlike resolutions, directives do not include preambulatory clauses; instead, delegates will directly state specific orders, similar to operative clauses, following the title and the sponsors and signatories list.

IV. Personal Directives:

Additionally, individual members of the committee may pass personal directives depending on their particular position, potentially contributing to individual crisis arcs. These directives can range from allocating funds for renewable energy to carrying out assassinations. These actions do not need to be passed by the committee at large and their effectiveness is determined by their feasibility and the crisis staff. It is suggested that delegates refrain from sharing what personal directives they are planning as they should be used to achieve personal objectives that might not always align with the interests of the committee as a whole. These directives are sent to the crisis backroom, who determines whether or not the directive will change the course of the committee.

V. Communication:

Communication is an essential part of any crisis simulation, and is especially a vital tool when delegates are required to respond to crisis updates. At the beginning of the conference, delegates will be provided with a pen and a pad of paper. They may use the paper to write notes to each other, write up directives, or organize thoughts. Regarding note passing: delegates may pass notes to each other during committee while other members are speaking, but this privilege may be revoked by the chair should it distract from the debate. Specifics about note passing will be addressed at the beginning of the first committee session by the chair. Technology, like computers and cell phones, are not allowed during debate.

VI. Conference Prep:

In order to prepare for this conference, it is *strongly* recommended that each delegate consolidate their thoughts and strategy by writing a position paper. Delegates that do not submit a paper by the deadline below will not be eligible for awards. Position papers should:

- Be 1-2 pages in length single spaced, 12 point font
- Describe your role's position and what they contribute to the issue
- Address specific questions from the Background Guide that are relevant to your role
- Outline your role's likely optimal resolution and steps you need to take to achieve it
- MLA or Chicago style citations along with a Works Cited or Bibliography

Please email your position paper to your chairs no later than ***11:59 pm on Saturday, April 5th.*** so that they have adequate time to read them. To qualify for any awards you must submit a position paper by emailing it to 25fgennari@wpsstudents.org or 25oli@wpsstudents.org. Once again, please feel free to email your chairs or crisis director with any questions you may have regarding conference policies or procedures.

Best,

WestwoodMUNCVIII Staff

Dear Delegates,

My name is Francesca Gennari, and I am so excited to be one of your chairs for the Trojan War crisis committee! I am a senior at Westwood High School and have been involved in Model UN since my sophomore year. Outside of MUN, I am co-captain of Westwood's volleyball and tennis teams, vice president of Key Club, and I love to read, especially historical fiction.

I find the topic of the Trojan War particularly interesting because it was once viewed as completely fictitious. While Homer's *Iliad* includes aspects of Greek mythology and other fantastical elements, there is evidence that the city of Troy did exist, and more specific archeological evidence suggests that it was destroyed by war. Because of these discoveries, this topic toes the line between mythology and reality in a way that is engaging for all who choose to interact with it, whether from a historical perspective or a mythological one.

Olivia and I hope that this committee will be a positive experience for all delegates regardless of skill, background knowledge, or experience with Model UN, and we hope to establish a positive environment to develop public speaking and procedural ability. As such, we expect debate to remain both respectful and productive to maintain a supportive learning environment for all delegates. We hope that this topic is as fascinating to you as it is to us, and we welcome any questions or concerns you may have. We can be reached by email at 25fgennari@wpsstudents.org and 25oli@wpsstudents.org. We are so excited to see you all during the committee!

Best,

Francesca

Hi Delegates!

My name is Olivia, and I'm incredibly excited to be co-chairing the Trojan War crisis committee. I've been doing Model UN since my freshman year and have had incredible experiences at all the conferences I've attended. Outside of MUN, I love to dance and sing, especially in my school's musical. I also enjoy playing piano, violin, and tennis. I am so thrilled to be a part of this conference and meet all of you and hear your undoubtedly amazing ideas.

While Greek mythology can feel ancient and archaic, its rich collection of stories offers us complex moral lessons and human themes that are meant to be further explored and appreciated. Our committee is definitely a fun and imaginative one, but it also tackles some significant and very real issues we face in society today. If you need any help at all, please feel free to reach out to Francesca (25fgennari@wpsstudents.org) or me at 25oli@wpsstudents.org. Can't wait to meet you all!

Best,

Olivia

Committee Background

The Trojan War, famously depicted in Homer's *Iliad*, has long been the subject of historical debate. Because of the myriad of mythological references, scholars believed it to be fictitious. However, in 1870, German Archaeologist Heinrich Schliemann discovered remains in present-day Turkey, where Troy was allegedly situated, with evidence suggesting the city was destroyed by war.¹ While the official and most well-known story of the Trojan War lies in *The Iliad*, the central text for this committee is *Black Ships Before Troy* by Rosemary Sutcliff,² a narrative retelling of the event from start to finish.

The Trojan Wars took place outside the city of Troy, in modern-day Turkey, whose West Coast borders the Aegean Sea. Mycenaean Greece, ruled by High King Agamemnon of Mycenae, is located across the Aegean Sea, made up of a group of mostly independent city-states. The many battles by the Achaean armies occurred along the coast of Asia Minor leading up to the city of Troy, where the most critical duels were fought and, most importantly, where the victor was decided.



The war itself was the product of a dispute over Helen of the Fair Cheeks, known far and wide for her awe-inspiring beauty. Taken from her husband Menelaus and her home in Mycenae by King Priam of Troy's famous son Paris, Helen lies at the root of this war. Under a previous

¹ Martiacutenez, Oscar. "How Archaeologists Found the Lost City of Troy." History, November 14, 2018. <https://www.nationalgeographic.com/history/history-magazine/article/the-lost-city-of-troy>

² Sutcliff, Rosemary, and Homer. *Black Ships Before Troy: The Story of the Iliad*. London: Frances Lincoln Children's Books, 2017.

oath, kings from all over Greece came to the aid of Menelaus, aiming to sail across the Aegean Sea, retrieve Helen, and sack Troy, a city with impenetrable walls built by the Gods themselves.

Important Events

The Judgment of Paris

The root of this war lies in a conflict that occurred at the wedding of Thetis of the Silver Feet and Peleus King of Myrmidons. Eris, the goddess of discord, was the only deity not invited. To take her revenge, she showed up uninvited and tossed a golden apple inscribed “to the fairest” onto a nearby table. Immediately, three goddesses quarreled, each claiming the apple as their own. Hera, wife of Zeus and goddess of marriage and fertility, believed that she deserved the apple, as she was queen of all gods. Athena, the goddess of war and wisdom, snatched the apple from Hera, arguing that the beauty of wisdom is more valuable than physical beauty. And Aphrodite claimed the apple because she was the goddess of beauty itself. The three women clamored for the apple, asking the wedding guests to choose between them. However, these guests knew that choosing one goddess would make an enemy out of the other two, a risk none of them were willing to take.

The goddesses took the quarrel back to Olympus, where their fellow deities also refused to choose. So, they set off looking for a mortal who knew nothing of their status and came upon Paris, son of King Priam. Raised by a shepherd far away from the outside world, Paris learned archery and academia, but nothing of mythology or the gods, making him the perfect



arbiter. Each goddess would offer Paris a reward for choosing them. Hera promised vast wealth and power, Athena promised supreme wisdom, and Aphrodite promised Paris a wife as fair as herself. Enchanted by Aphrodite's beauty, Paris chose her.

The Marriage and Kidnapping of Helen

Due to her breathtaking beauty, Helen of the Fair Cheeks was presented with a myriad of suitors. In order to keep the peace among the many Greek nation-states ruled by eligible suitors, these men took an oath to protect whichever man Helen would choose. When the time came for her to be wed, Helen chose King Menelaus of Mycenae. At the time of their wedding, word traveled of her beauty and reached Troy. Aphrodite knew that Helen would be the perfect reward for Paris, so Paris set sail to find her and take her for himself.

When he arrived in Mycenae, Paris befriended Menelaus and Helen, staying with them in their home. However, while Menelaus was out hunting, Paris feigned illness and remained



indoors with Helen. He then seduced and kidnapped her, bringing her back to Troy. Menelaus returned from hunting to find that his wife had been taken, and, furious, vowed to sail to Troy to retrieve Helen.

Achilles Leaves the War

For the first nine years of the war, the Achaeans tried and failed to enter Troy's walls, turning to lesser towns along the coast to pillage in the interim. From these towns, the men gained critical resources, such as food, gold, armor, and from some cities captured female slaves.

After sacking Thebes, the Achaeans took Chryseis and Briseis, two female slaves to serve as concubines to Agamemnon and Achilles, respectively. Shortly after, Chryseis' father, a priest of Apollo, arrived at the Greek camp begging for his daughter in exchange for a handsome sum of gold and riches. Agamemnon refused the old man with cruel insults, keeping Chryseis for himself.

A plague mysteriously came upon the Greek camp. Calchas, chief soothsayer, said that this pestilence was sent by Apollo, god of the Sun, angered by Agamemnon's treatment of his priest. To stop the agony that only further depleted Greek morale, Agamemnon returned Chryseis to her father, taking Achilles's Briseis as his own. This led to a bitter quarrel between the two men, with Achilles berating Agamemnon, saying that he did not deserve the richest spoils as it was Achilles himself who led the raid. Achilles moved to draw his sword against Agamemnon until Athena put into his mind that fighting the High King would be detrimental to the entire Greek war effort. Storming out of the camp, Achilles declared his exit from the war, complaining of his sorrows to his mother Thetis. Thetis then approached Zeus, begging him to help the Trojans win so that the Achaeans could understand that the war was impossible to win without the contribution of her son. In response, Zeus sent a false dream to Agamemnon, declaring that if the Achaeans stormed Troy the next day (which in reality would surely lead to their demise), they would win the war in its entirety.

The Tenth Year of the War: A Duel

After the tenth year of the war, both sides knew they had lost too many men to the war. Therefore, the warriors agreed to a battle between Menelaus and Paris, the winner of which would be named the victor of the war and return home with Helen. As the duel raged on, Paris grew closer and closer to his looming death as Menelaus maintained the upper hand. Right before the final blow that would bring about Paris's end, Aphrodite flung a cloak of invisibility over him and whisked him away to safety. When no winner was determined, fighting resumed and a series of duels ensued.

Achilles's Return and Subsequent Death

Donning Achilles' armor to inflict fear, Patroclus fought the mighty Hector and died, calling Achilles back to battle. Fueled by a blinding rage, Achilles viciously slayed Hector and dragged his corpse on the back of a chariot for



all of Troy to see. King Priam, distraught at the sight of dishonor to his son before him, begged Achilles to return the body to the royal family for a proper burial, to which Achilles agreed.

Paris, avenging his brother, shot a fatally poisonous arrow guided by the god Apollo directly into Achilles' only vulnerability: his heel. Quickly overtaken by the poison, Achilles died a hero's death. Promptly after, the Achaeans enlisted the help of famed archer Philoctetes, who shot Paris with a poisoned arrow, killing him by the same means with which Paris killed Achilles.

The Trojan Horse & The Fall of Troy

Both the Achaeans and the Trojans, depleted of both battle resources and men, knew the end of the war was near. Knowing that without Achilles the Achaeans could not prevail through hand-to-hand combat, Odysseus, the Greek King of Ithaca, concocted a cunning plan to best the Trojans once and for all. Under his guidance, the Achaean army built a large, hollow wooden horse with enough room for a few warriors to be concealed. The horse was unexpectedly presented to the Trojans, who believed it to be a peace offering, and was welcomed into the gates of Troy. Then, in the dead of night, the soldiers within the horse came out, signaling for the remaining men outside the Trojan walls to enter the city. Before daybreak, the Achaeans decimated Troy, burning its people, its monuments, and its infrastructure to the ground.

Current Event: The Tenth Year of the War

This crisis committee is situated at the beginning of the Tenth Year of the war, promptly after Agamemnon receives his false dream from Zeus. The Trojans remain safely within the walls of their city, as the Achaeans have yet to penetrate after many futile attempts. The now destitute Achaean coalition continues to convince Achilles to rejoin battle or pursue another avenue of battle different from hand-to-hand combat. Both the Achaean and the Trojan blocs aim to protect their pride and sway the Gods' favor in an attempt to influence the course of the war. Delegates are encouraged to research and discuss possible courses of action for both the Greek and Trojan armies, including but not limited to convincing Achilles to rejoin the battle, looking for additional resources to replenish those lost, and the possibility of diplomatic agreement.

Questions to Consider:

1. Is it a priority to get Achilles to return to battle, or can the war end without him?
 - a. If it is a priority, how can we convince him to return?
 - b. How can the Trojans and their supporting Gods prevent Achilles from returning to battle to protect their land and increase the chances of Trojan victory?
2. How can the Achaeans and the Trojans sway the Gods' favor?
 - a. Are the Gods willing to switch sides if given adequate compensation/bribery?
3. Is there a possibility of diplomacy as opposed to continuous warfare?
 - a. Can land or resources be traded to avoid armed conflict?
4. How will the defeated's land be partitioned amongst the victors?

POSITIONS

The Greeks

Achilles: Son of the goddess Thetis and King of Phthia, Achilles is the most revered warrior in the history of Greece. Dipped into the River Styx for invulnerability and blessed by the gods as *Aristos Achaion*³, Achilles is the most valuable asset to the Greeks. Fueled by this very recognition, he is aware that his existence can serve as either the saving grace of the Greeks or their ruination. He cares for eternal glory and an enduring legacy rather than those who he fights for, and this arrogance has the potential to significantly alter the course of the war.

Patroclus: Banished from his home after accidentally killing a boy, the former Prince of Opus was sent to Phthia as an exile and quickly formed a strong and deep connection with Achilles.⁴ A former suitor bound by Odysseus' oath⁵ and Achilles' faithful partner, Patroclus follows Achilles to Troy, driven by his loyalty to Achilles rather than to Menelaus. As a result, he seeks an end to the war and hopes to minimize the death of soldiers on both sides.

Odysseus: Odysseus is the King of Ithaca, known for his cunning and intelligence and favored by the goddess of wisdom, Athena. He proposed the original pact that forced the suitors of Helen to come to Menelaus' aid and suffers the consequences when he is called to fight. During the war, he plays a pivotal role as a brilliant strategist and advisor, yet he hopes to end the war as fast as possible in order to return home to his kingdom, his wife, and his son.

³ Best of the Greeks

⁴ Patroclus," Encyclopædia Britannica, January 7, 2025,

⁵ The Life Guide. "The Entire Story of the Trojan War Explained." YouTube, March 26, 2022.

Agamemnon: Agamemnon is the High King of Mycenae and the older brother of Menelaus. He is the commander of the Greek forces and calls upon kings and kingdoms to lay siege on Troy when Helen is taken from Sparta. Despite the burdens of the war, he does not actively want the fighting to end: he seeks glory and fame for himself from the siege of Troy, even if it means prolonged violence and unnecessary death. He remains fatally proud and self-important to the point of blatant disrespect, angering Achilles and setting off the tragic end of the war.

Menelaus: King of Sparta, Menelaus won Helen's hand in marriage and earned the promise of support from Helen's failed suitors. When Helen is stolen away by Paris, Menelaus calls upon her past suitors and journeys to Troy. A tremendous warrior, Menelaus still only seeks to reclaim his wife rather than garner fame. He desperately wants the war to end so he can return home with his wife and will seek a peaceful means to settle the conflict in order to limit bloodshed and sooner end the war.

Ajax the Greater: Ajax the Greater is the prince of Salamis and Periboea and would have been the Greeks' *Aristos Achaion* if not for Achilles. A fearsome warrior and one of Hector's only challengers, Ajax is known for his courage and bravery on the battlefield and desires recognition and fame for his feats and accomplishments during the war.

Nestor: A former Argonaut⁶ and experienced warrior, Nestor serves as a voice of reason and wise counsel for Agamemnon. He does not participate in battle but rather hopes for peace and reconciliation between the Trojans and the Greeks, advocating for peaceful methods of ending the war in order to limit bloodshed and death.

⁶ Warrior in the band of 50 heroes who went with the hero Jason on a mission in the ship Argo

Diomedes: One of the greatest heroes of the Achaeans and Athena's favorite warriors, Diomedes wields unparalleled fighting prowess and experience, rivaling Ajax the Greater in battle. Despite performing many heroic deeds and earning a name for himself on the battlefield, Diomedes sought an end to the war and a future beyond the conflict.

Thersites: Thersites was a common soldier in the Achaean army. He is the only soldier who protests against Odysseus when he rallies the troops to remain at the camp and stands up against Agamemnon and Achilles for prolonging the war. A voice for the Achaean soldiers, Thersites is against war and hopes for diplomacy to settle this battle in order to sooner end the war and return home.

Calchas: The son of a priest of Apollo, Calchas acts as the prophet for the Greeks and interprets omens to advise the Greek army and warn them of the coming years. Calchas is aware of the length of the war and what will become of it and is not eager for the conflict ahead, but recognizes his inability to alter the course of events and simply waits for the war to play out.

The Trojans

Hector: Hector is the oldest of King Priam's 50 children, next in line for the throne and the leader of the Trojan forces during the war. Though Hector is an experienced and powerful warrior, he actively seeks to end the war and does not approve of Paris' actions to steal away Helen. Aware of the war's devastation of his people and bound by a duty to his citizens, he only fights with the sole purpose of defending his country and family.

King Priam: Priam is the current King of the Trojans and the father of Hector, Paris, and Cassandra. As king, he sees the suffering of his people and supports a peaceful end to the war. While initially remaining passive when Paris took Helen, he now hopes to minimize bloodshed and negotiate peace to end the war, the devastation of his land, and the suffering of his people.

Paris: Paris is the son of Priam and prince of Troy. Despite being favored by the goddess Aphrodite, Paris is known not for his beauty and charm but rather for his role as the catalyst of the war. By abducting Helen, Paris brings about the war between the Trojans and the Greeks. He is reluctant to give up Helen, yet he does grow tired of the war and struggles with these warring desires.

Cassandra: Cassandra is the daughter of Priam, a princess of Troy, and a follower of the god Apollo. In being gifted with prophetic power, Cassandra warned Paris of the outcome of his actions but was ignored. Cassandra desperately wants the war to end, as her prophecies allow her to foresee the destruction of Troy if the fighting does not cease.

Aeneas: The son of the goddess Aphrodite, Aeneas is a member of the royal line of Troy and a cousin of Hector. He is an experienced and battle-hardened warrior, only second to Hector in fighting ability. He feels a strong sense of duty to his people, and while he does not want to see Troy fall to the Greeks, he is increasingly aware of the futility of the war and seeks an end to the bloodshed.

Sarpedeon: A son of Zeus, Sarpedeon is the King of Lycia and a formidable warrior. He is a prominent Trojan ally and a highly valuable leader on the battlefield. Despite his frustration with

the war, Sarpedeon does not necessarily seek an end to the fighting, but rather a more effective way for the Trojans to achieve victory and defeat the Greeks.

Glaucus: Glaucus is another prominent Trojan ally and the prince of Lycia. He also serves as captain of the Lycian forces under Sarpedeon. As a loyal Trojan warrior, Glaucus does not actively seek an end to the war. Like many, he is compelled by the promise of glory and fame on the battlefield and finds purpose in his fight.

Pentheselia: Queen of the Amazons, Pentheselia is a daughter of the war god Ares and a loyal ally to the Trojan forces.⁷ She is a defender of Troy and aspires to protect the city from the Greeks and achieve victory through war and conquering.

The Gods

Supporting Achaeans:

Hera: Hera is the queen of the Olympians and wife to Zeus. Goddess of marriage, childbirth, and women, she is a pivotal figure in the Trojan War, supporting the Greeks against the Trojans. Her support stems from her anger towards Paris for not choosing her as the most beautiful goddess. She actively supports the Greeks, going so far as to interfere in the battle to ensure the Greeks have an advantage and will only support an end to the war if the Trojans are defeated in the process.

⁷ Kathleen Kuiper, "Penthesilea," Encyclopædia Britannica, accessed February 18, 2025

Athena: Athena is the daughter of Zeus and goddess of wisdom and war. She is a key supporter of the Greeks and harbors a similar resentment to Hera for Paris. She will often help the Greeks in battle and desires victory for the Greeks over the Trojans.

Poseidon: Poseidon is the god of the sea, earthquakes, storms, and horses. Poseidon is initially neutral in the war; however, after being betrayed by the Trojans despite building their wall, he sides with the Greeks, becoming one of their greatest godly allies. He uses his power over the seas to ensure safe passage for the Greeks and helps the Achaeans in battle by giving strength to Achaean soldiers and decimating Trojan forces.

Hephestus: Hephaestus is the god of fire, blacksmithing, and volcanos. He sides with the Greeks during the Trojan War alongside his mother Hera, and remains crucial throughout the war by forging armor for the Greeks. However, because the Trojans continued to worship him due to his role as god of craftsmanship, he did not actively wish for complete destruction of the Trojans, but rather an end to the war.

Supporting Trojans:

Aphrodite: Aphrodite is the goddess of love and beauty. She is largely responsible for the war due to her part in promising Helen to Paris after he chose her to be the most beautiful goddess. As a result, Aphrodite favors Paris heavily, protecting him throughout the war and saving his life on multiple occasions. Seeking to protect her allies, Aphrodite does not want the war to end and often thwarts attempts to end the war.

Apollo: Apollo is the brother of Artemis and the god of the sun, archery, prophecy, healing, and disease. Due to disrespect from the leader of the Greeks Agamemnon, Apollo sides with the Trojans throughout the war. He brings plagues upon the Greek camp and aids Trojan heroes in battle, ultimately playing a direct role in the success of the Trojans throughout the war. His actions are motivated by personal grudges and dislike for Achean heroes, and he desires a Trojan victory above all else.

Zeus: Zeus is the king of the Olympians and the god of the sky and thunder. He sets the war into motion, believing that Earth's overpopulation issue can be solved by the Trojan War. Despite favoring the Trojans due to their consistent sacrifices and worship, and with the exception of his promise to Thetis, Zeus remains neutral and refrains from interfering, with no strong personal investment in the war itself.

Ares: Ares is the bloodthirsty god of war. He is primarily motivated by his love for bloodshed and violence. Ares does not want the battle to end: he is empowered by the chaos of war and actively seeks to prolong the conflict. While he does not particularly care who wins the war, he ultimately sides with the Trojans in battle due to his commitment to Aphrodite.

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