

# Crisis 101!

---

This slideshow will introduce all elements of Crisis to those new to it, with examples from past years.



# Table of Contents

1. Introduction to Crisis
2. Role of Staffers & Chairs
3. Crisis vs GA
4. Crisis Updates
5. Directives
6. Press Releases
7. Crisis Notes
8. How to Write a Crisis Position Paper + Sample

# Introduction to Crisis

- **Fast paced** committee that emulates a national cabinet or organization
- Instead of representing a country, delegates **represent individuals**
- Periodically **crisis updates** will be presented to the committee to change the dynamic of debate and shift committee priorities
- Shorter, more direct resolutions **called directives** are made to directly address specific issues
- Delegates will have the opportunity to interact with the **backroom**, composed of crisis staffers, to enact personal actions through **crisis notes**
- Decisions and solutions will need to be made quickly, with an ability to adapt and **think on one's feet**

# Role of Staffers & Chairs

---

<b>Staffers:</b>	<b>Chairs:</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Stay in a separate, nearby room called the backroom</li><li>- Most of the knowledge of debate comes from the chair, directives, &amp; crisis notes, so make sure the intention is clear.</li><li>- Responsible for making crisis slides &amp; Q&amp;A period afterwards</li><li>- Collects, delivers, &amp; responds to crisis notes</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- Communicates with staffers on what's happening in committee</li><li>- Designs the crisis arc</li><li>- Typically uses chair discretion powers more generously to remind committee to stay on track of the intended arc</li></ul>

# Crisis vs GA

- **Faster flow of debate.** The final goal of GA is to pass one resolution that will address the topic; in Crisis new resolutions - called *directives* - need to be constantly pushed out to respond to new events - called *crises*.
  - Adapt fast to change
  - Debate on a topic will be shorter
  - Range of topics more diverse & unpredictable (see examples on next slide)
  - Doesn't mean less research - you will need a more holistic grasp on who/what you are representing to accurately respond to emergencies
- **More individualized.** GA requires delegates to compromise to advance the same goal; Crisis delegates **must work together** in committee but also **advance their personal ambitions**.
  - The most “successful” delegate is not one who makes the most compromises, but who establishes the greatest influence by the end of committee
  - Requires public speaking, but also private *crisis notes*

# How do crisis updates work?

---

- An update is a slideshow of a new event brought into committee by a crisis staffer every 20~30 minutes, with a 2~6 minute Q&A period with the staffer to clarify the update
  - May be pre-planned, a response to a directive, or induced by a delegate (see crisis note slide)
  - Will interrupt flow of debate. The purpose is to prevent stagnation of debate or redirect focus to the new issue
  - New crisis is ordered by chairs & created by staffers (see slide on the role of staffers & chairs)
- Typically in the format of news articles or private letters for immersion
- Possible crises: war, economic, public image, treason, diplomacy
  - Any attempt towards radical crises such as war will be rejected until the end for the sake of debate (see slide on what to watch out for)

# Example Crisis slide

Source: CNYMUN 2023 China-Taiwan Joint Crisis Committee

The image shows a screenshot of a BBC News article. The top navigation bar includes the BBC logo and menu items: Home, News, Sport, Reel, Worklife, Travel, Future, and More. A search bar is on the right. Below the navigation is a red banner with the word 'NEWS' in white. The main headline is 'Chinese Spies Captured' in large white text on a dark background. The sub-headline reads: 'Just a couple hours ago, two Chinese spies have been caught at the border of Taiwan, near Kinmen. Interrogation reveals that they were sent by the Chinese government to obtain information from the Taiwan cabinet. Taiwan has made this announcement public worldwide. What will this mean for China-Taiwan relations?'. To the right of the article is a partial view of the flag of the Republic of China (Taiwan). Two callout boxes are overlaid on the image: one on the right side containing a list of questions to ask during Q&A, and one at the bottom center containing a note about a rhetorical question.

**BBC** Home News Sport Reel Worklife Travel Future More Search

## NEWS

# Chinese Spies Captured

Just a couple hours ago, two Chinese spies have been caught at the border of Taiwan, near Kinmen. Interrogation reveals that they were sent by the Chinese government to obtain information from the Taiwan cabinet. Taiwan has made this announcement public worldwide. What will this mean for China-Taiwan relations?

Some question to ask during Q&A:

- Ask about the source of the news
- Ask about the publicity of this information
- Ask to specify certain pieces of information
- Avoid asking general questions such as “What does this imply for our committee?” (It’s up to committee to interpret it!)

A rhetorical question may be posed by staffers at the end to encourage debate on this topic.

# What is a Directive?

---

- Directives are fast-paced public resolutions to the issue and in response to crisis updates
- Short and concise (around 1 page or less) - do not spend too much time
- No preambulatory clauses - focus on taking action and less on explaining policy
- Directives should contain:
  - Signatories/Sponsors
  - Specific orders or actions
  - Expectations of the result of the actions
    - The staffers in the backroom must understand the intention of your directive to adjust to future crises
- Directives must be filled out on a “directive slip” and be mindful of how many slips you take
- Directives should be passed to the chair when complete and will be voted on by the committee



# Sample Directive



## Crisis Directive Slip

Type: Public Directive or Press Release

Sponsors: Sec. of Economy, Sec of Treasury, Sec. of Welfare

Signatories: Sec. of Welfare, Sec. of Health, Sec. of Education

Body: To address the immediate hazardous working conditions in factories we call for a large task force to be deployed to inspect the reported sites and assess working conditions by gathering testimonies from workers; mandate an immediate halt to operations at facilities deemed unsafe until all hazards are rectified; impose penalties on companies found in violation of safety and labor standards through fines and legal action, and public disclosure of offending companies

# What is a Press Release?

---

- **Purpose:**
  - **informs/misinforms** the public about the crisis to get the public to react in a certain way
  - can encourage to public to be safe, stop protesting, or get involved with the crisis
  - may share information with the committee that was previously a secret
  - can encourage a **response** from the international community
- **Needs to:**
  - be filled out on a **directive slip**
  - have sponsors and signatories
  - be **voted on** by the committee and pass with a simple majority

# Press Release Sample



## Crisis Directive Slip

Type: Public Directive

or

Press Release

Sponsors: Sec. of Welfare, Sec. of Interior

Signatories: Sec. of Economy, Sec. of Tourism, Sec. of Health

Body: Thousands of civilians have been protesting against their working conditions. Although these demonstrations began peacefully, they have escalated in violence, causing clashes between protesters and law enforcement. To protect the lives of our citizens and police officers, we have decided to deploy our military to control the matter. We just want our citizens to know that violence is never acceptable in our nation and are doing our best to quell these disturbances.

# What are Crisis Notes?

- Crisis notes are **private notes** written by delegates to staffers
  - Notes between delegates must be self-delivered
- They are used to clarify and change individual powers. Delegates may:
  - Take individual action based on **portfolio powers**
    - Portfolio powers are the powers, relationships, and ambitions of the individual delegate based on the person/nation they represent
      - EX: Secretary of War → mobilize troops
    - Small plans (such as collecting funds, private missions, diplomacy etc) should culminate to large powers that can influence the course of debate towards the end of committee
  - Declare individual goals so staffers can assist the delegate
  - Speak to somebody outside of the committee (such as to the US ambassador asking for aid)
    - If communicating with someone outside of committee, make sure to note “who” on your crisis note slip

# Crisis Notes: Sending and Delivery

- Crisis notes must be filled out on the “**crisis note slips**”
- Staffers will tour the committee room every **10-15 minutes** to collect crisis notes and deliver responses
- It’s important to note that responses take time, so **be patient** in hearing back
  - If you haven’t received a response in a while, send a note to your staffers to check in
- Requests that are **out of reason** (outside of your portfolio powers) or **too radical** won’t be granted

# Crisis Notes: Do's and Don'ts

## Do's

- clearly label the slip with your name and position
- be aligned with your portfolio powers..if you are unsure of what they are send a crisis note to the backroom to clarify
- be very specific in what you're asking for
- make your order somewhat feasible in accordance with your role
- be patient with crisis staffers in collecting and returning notes

## Don'ts

- share your crisis notes with other members of the committee..they are meant to be private
- make radical orders (like waging war)..it's important to build up prior to taking large action
- expect that every order will be passed.. if it's too radical no response may be given
- focus only on sending crisis notes..it's important to be an active and collaborative member of your committee

# Sample Crisis Note

## Crisis Note Slip



Name: Avril Haines

Position: Sec. of Intelligence

To: Backroom

Message: The Sec. of Intelligence would like to obtain information on all activities of the committee to ensure national security by deploying 10 undercover intelligence agents and intercepting communications between key nations suspected of forming an alliance

# How to Write a Crisis Position Paper

---

**Paragraph 1:** Summarize the crisis and key issues

**Paragraph 2:** Explain your individual's opinions and policies as related to the crisis

**Paragraph 3:** Propose specific solutions that your individual would be looking to implement in committee

A sample crisis position paper can be found [here](#)