

Boston College High School

Model UN Conference

XXXII



‘Sic Semper Tyrannis’ - Roman Senate Assassination of Julius Caesar



Chair: Daniel Linnehan
Co-Chair: Sheadon O’Leary
Crisis Director: KinJia Wong

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Crisis Procedure

James Conley '24 - Conference Assistant Crisis Manager

Overview

The procedure in crisis committees varies from other types of committees you may be used to like general assemblies. There are some key differences in the committee, which will go through different crisis steps in debate. *It is important to note that this is only an overview with general guidelines and that chairs/co-chairs have the right to make any procedural changes they see fit during the committee.*

General Debate

- I. Debate will always open with a role call; to which all delegates respond “present” or “present and voting”.
- II. Crisis committees are generally less uniform in debate, with *NO motions for speaker’s lists*.
- III. Rather, the primary forms of debate in crisis committees are **round robins**, **moderated caucuses**, and **unmoderated caucuses**.
- IV. Due to the nature of a smaller-sized committee, delegates can offer a point of inquiry, without permission from the chair, as long as someone else is not speaking.
- V. Speeches are usually much briefer, so it is not recommended to yield your time to other delegates or time.

Moderated/Unmoderated Caucuses

- VI. Moderated caucuses occur frequently in debate in a crisis committee.
 - A. Motions for moderated caucuses over 8 minutes will almost always be disregarded.
 - B. If there are not enough speakers, delegates can speak multiple times in a single moderated caucus.
 - C. If there are no other points or motions, the debate defaults to a moderated caucus.

- VII.** Unmoderated caucuses rarely occur in crisis committees.
 - A. Similar to moderated caucuses, unmoderated caucuses are usually under 8-9 minutes.
 - B. In a crisis committee, an unmoderated caucus may be more useful for synthesizing directives with other delegates.

Round Robins

- VIII.** In a round-robin, every delegate has the chance to speak, and the order is determined by the chair's placement.
- IX.** Speaking times are generally limited to a minute or less.
- X.** Round robins can be found most useful after a major crisis event/update, in which they will often be looked upon favorably by chairs.

Directives

- XI.** In a crisis committee, directives are essentially shortened versions of resolutions that would be found in GA's, and
 - A. Can be only a couple of clauses long.
 - B. Do not contain pre-ambulatory clauses.
 - C. Can be useful in response to a crisis update/event.
- XII.** Oftentimes, voting procedure will occur after a directive has been introduced.
 - A. There is no question-and-answer period.
 - B. Two-for, two-against or one-for, one-against speeches will occur to replace question-and-answer.
 - C. If no delegates choose to speak against the directive it will pass.
 - D. For any extraneous circumstances, the chair will explain details for further procedure.
- XIII.** Chairs often set caps on how many directives will be introduced.

Personal Directives

- XIV.** Personal directives are very important in crisis committees and are often used to communicate with the crisis staff in the backroom.
- XV.** Personal directives should be written as personal notes in the context of;
 - A. Who you are representing.
 - B. The current status of debate and events in the committee.
 - C. Who may not be represented but has a role in the events of the committee.
- XVI.** When writing the notes, you must write on behalf of your representative, and write to/address someone who can help you accomplish your goals in the context of your committee.
 - A. For example, if you are seeking permission to murder someone else in your committee, you may write to the general of your country's military.
 - B. When writing personal directives, NEVER break the fourth wall by writing directly to the backroom.

Timed Crisis

- XVII.** In a timed crisis, the crisis staff will give delegates a limited time to respond to a crisis announcement.
- XVIII.** During this time, some of the procedural guidelines listed above are subject to change in terms of strictness, to maintain the flow of the committee.

Miscellaneous Information/Advice

- XIX.** In a crisis committee, it is possible to enter trial procedure, in which a delegate can be put on trial for potentially having committed high crimes.
 - A. Should the committee enter trial procedure, more information will be provided by the chair.
- XX.** If there are any questions about procedure or abilities, seek your chair or co-chair; they are there to help.
- XXI.** Be efficient and use directives to your advantage!

Letter from the Crisis Director

Greetings delegates!

My name is KinJia Wong (think of Jia without the I) and it is my pleasure to serve as the crisis director of this committee. In this committee you will have to deal with a variety of problems all at once, part of the reason I love crisis committees. It is so unpredictable, whether it be the American Civil War where Abraham Lincoln became a *dictator*, or the secretary of defense forced to be the *head of waste management*, anyone regardless of their status can become someone important in a crisis committee.

As a current sophomore, I have been a part of BCHigh's Model United Nations since the seventh grade, and it is my second year working in the crisis backrooms. When I am not delegating, I run cross country during the fall, participate in robotics, and play ultimate frisbee during the spring.

To be successful in this committee you will need to be open to anything and be very flexible. Maintaining healthy relationships with your other delegates, while making effective directives will be key towards this. However, do not let the murder or the lack thereof of someone ruin the fun we hope to have at this conference. In the end, the goal is to peacefully delegate while making friendships along the way.

I look forward to getting to know you all!

Best regards,

KinJia Wong '26 Crisis Director

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Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BC High's 31st Model UN Conference! My name is Daniel Linnehan and this is my third year participating in Model UN. I am also involved in the soccer and track teams here at BC High.

From my time in Model UN, I have expanded my knowledge about international politics, enhanced my debating skills, and fostered relationships with students from all across New England. I hope your time at our conference will allow you to do the same.

Lastly, please send your position papers to my email before the committee starts to be considered for an award. Thank you for participating in BCHMUN XXXII. I look forward to meeting you soon!

Sincerely,

Daniel Linnehan '24 Charge D'Affaires

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Letter from the Co-Chair

Greetings delegates,

My name is Sheadon O’Leary and I’m absolutely overjoyed to be your co-chair for this committee during the 32nd BC High Model U.N conference. It’s a pleasure to be chairing aside the experienced chair Daniel Linnehan and an honor to work with such esteemed delegates as yourselves on such an interesting conference as the Assassination of Julius Caesar.

I’m a junior at BC High and have been doing Model U.N for about three years now, with each one presenting a deeper nuance and sense of depth in these subjects than the prior. At this point, I’ve done Model UN so much that it almost seems like a daily occurrence to me and yet If I still reflect back, I realize just how much growth and moments can come out of each individual conference and how multiple conferences have shaped me over the years into becoming the type of delegate and man I am today.

Outside of school, I participate in a variety of activities and sports like frisbee and our very own writing club. It's my honor to invite all of you to attend this conference.

Sincerely,

Shedon O’Leary ‘25 Co-Chair

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Roman Republic: Government and Politics

Rome had a Republican form of government which centered around its central legislative body: the Senate. The positions within the government were all held by senators and the progression of these offices was called the Cursus Honora.

1. Quaestor:
 - Responsibilities included financial administration and assisting higher magistrates.
 - Grants life-long membership to the Senate
2. Aedile:
 - In charge of public buildings, games, and festivals.
3. Tribune of the Plebs:
 - Office only available to members of the common class.
 - Had the power to veto actions of the senate or officials.
4. Praetor:
 - Judicial responsibilities, including presiding over court cases (judges).
 - Eligible to be a governor (now as Proconsul/Propraetor) after their term expires.
5. Consul:
 - The highest elected office in the Roman Republic.
 - Two consuls were elected annually to serve as the heads of the state and chief executive.
 - Most powerful position in the government (think President).
6. Dictator:
 - An emergency position with extraordinary powers, appointed in times of crisis.
 - Temporary and typically limited to six months.
7. Augur
 - Prestigious position in Rome, separate from the senate
 - Asked Gods and Goddesses things and interpreted signs
 - Consulted for election of Dictators and Consuls

Special Rules of the Roman Senate

- 1) All voting will be done by standing and walking to the person who presented the position you agree with, seating will be abstaining.

Pre-Assassination Background

Civil War (49-45 BC):

From 49-45 BC the Roman world had been engulfed in “Caesar’s Civil War” where Julius Caesar and his Cesareans¹ fought a bloody civil war against Pompey Magnus and his Pompeians². The war started over a partisan political dispute over whether Caesar would be able to run for Consul from his province Gaul³ or have to return to Rome and therefore be open to criminal charges brought by his political opponents: the Pomeians. The standoff ended when Caesar crossed the Rubicon River⁴ and marched on Rome. The war ended with Julius Caesar and his Cesareans victorious.

Caesar as King:

Upon Caesar’s victory in the Civil War, he returned to Rome and completely reshaped Roman politics and governance placing him at the center of both. Caesar did offer clemency to any former Pompeians who surrendered, but he also enlarged the senate with his own political allies. Caesar was named Consul for 5 years and Dictator for 10 years. He was given the power to: expel senators from the Senate, to grant pardons and reprieves, and to make war without consulting the Senate. Caesar was also crafting a cult of personality by having the senate name him: liberator, father of the fatherland, and imperator for life. The senate also allowed him to wear purple (the color of royalty) on all religious holidays and to craft a golden chair (throne) for himself in the senate house. In the eyes of the political class, Caesar was turning himself into a king.

¹ The reform party in Roman politics with Caesar as their leader

² The Conservative party in Roman politics with Pomeh as their leader

³ Modern day France which Caesar conquered in the Gallic wars

⁴ Border between Gaul and Italy which was illegal for an army to cross

Assassination Background

Planning:

The conspiracy started with a meeting between Brutus, Cassius, and Decimus. They believed that Caesar was destroying the Republic and the only way to restore it started with his death. There was a bit of infighting about whether they should kill only Caesar or all of his policy supporters; however, they eventually settled on just Caesar.

During a senate meeting at the Theater of Pompey on the side of Mark Antony was kept out of the meeting and Caesar was stabbed to death. The conspirators then barricaded themselves atop the Capitoline Hill and offered to meet with the rest of the senate the day after.

Questions to Consider

1. What will be the fate of the conspirators?
2. What will be the fate of the anti-conspirator Cesareans?
3. What will be the fate of Caesar's policies and reforms?
4. What changes, if any, will be made to the Roman Republic?

Committee Positions

* = Key Position

i = Imaginary / Historically not correct

- Note: You will be provided with a portfolio of powers at the start of the committee.

Conspirators

1. (*)**Marcus Junius Brutus: Key Leader**, a Roman Politician involved in a conspiracy that assassinated Julius Caesar. He is *arrogant* and *cruel* to those he deems 'inferior'. He was looked upon as a **stoic** and could sway people with his articulate speech.
2. (*)**Gaius Cassius Longinus**: A Roman Quaestor involved with the assassination of Caesar. Good soldier, but *vain* and *ambitious* when it came to politics. Also had an **uncontrollable temper**. He **should not be really disagreeing** with *Marcus Junius Brutus*.
3. **Decimus Junius Brutus**: A less famous Roman Politician involved in the assassination. **Led** Caesar to the Senate house and **evaded** *Mark Antony* who wanted to **snitch** on the assassination plot. As a Praetor Peregrinus, he now finds trouble with what he shall do to escape.
4. **Gaius Trebonius**: Up to January 43 BC was a military commander and politician. Associate of Julius Caesar serving as a legate, and fought for him during the Civil War. He was among the conspirators that murdered Caesar.
5. **Publius Servilius Casca Longinus**: Childhood friend of Caesar, who was the first to strike him, under a specific order by Cassius. **Tribune to the plebs** and senate members at the time of Caesar's death
6. **Bernus Severus**: Roman senator who came from a rich and noble family. Rose to the senate by promising proposals favoring the patricians. He was very **corrupt** and

extremely susceptible to bribes. It was **common knowledge** that he was a slave trader, though it was never confirmed.

Political Figures of Rome

7. (*)**Mark Antony**: Very closely allied with Caesar throughout his political career (second in command, co-consul during final consulship). Expulsion from the Senate led to a republican civil war. Unable to warn Caesar of assassination in time fled the city, and now returned to protect Caesar's legacy and handle his will/eulogy.
8. (*)**Marcus Aemilius Lepidus**: Close ally of Caesar, served as one of his lieutenants. **Respected commander during this time.** Was described as *disloyal, fickle, and wicked*; according to his contemporaries. In spite of that **lots of opportunities** would open for him after Caesar's death to capitalize on.
9. **Lucius Antonius**: Younger brother of Mark Antony, and *supportive* of his political career. A tribune of the plebs he produced laws that had strengthened Caesar's rule.
10. (i)**Gnaeus Pompeius Magnus (Pompey the Great)**: Risen from the shadows, Pompey the Great, a **former member of the first triumvirate** with all his *nefarious intentions* shows outright in his actions as he plots for absolute power over Rome. With his **military influence**, he plans to make *Rome great again*.
11. **Octavian**: Grand-Nephew of Caesar. Member of the Pontifex. Completing his education at the time of Caesar's death, when he was adopted by him. With the support and will of all that Caesar has left behind, he intends to make a name for himself in history.
12. **Fulvia**: **Prominent aristocrat**. Wife of Mark Antony. Mother-in-law of Octavian. *Used* her first husband's death as a means to exile Milo and launch her political career. Her *strong public voice* will help dictate this committee.

13. (i) **Nicolas Tellero**: **Advisor to Caesar**, was one of Caesar's **most trusted allies**. Liked Octavian as he was officially Caesar's nephew and wanted him to carry on the Caesar line. Distrusted Pompey out of jealousy. He felt that the Roman Senate was **incapable** of supporting the Roman people as they should have. He believes Mark Antony *betrayed Rome* by Marrying Cleopatra

Neutral

14. (*) **Marcus Tullius Cicero**: Statesman, lawyer, scholar, and writer who tried his best to uphold the ideals of the Roman Republic during the Roman civil wars leading to the fall of the Republic. He is a man on a mission to uphold the Roman Republic ideals with philosophy, politics, and questionable motives.
15. (*) **Cleopatra**: The last ruler of the Macedonian line that ruled Egypt. She married her younger brother in order to rule, but then was forced to flee. Wanted originally Caesar's help overthrowing her brother. Loved by the Public, and had kids with both Caesar and Mark Antony
16. (i) **Gaius Scarius**: A talented general who was very popular with members of the military. Struggled to succeed in politics because of his lack of education and public speaking skills. As a result of this, he became a scheming person. He maintained strong connections with government officials in Africa, whom he had fondly made connections with.
17. (i) **Cecelia Vicetrix**: Roman Augur appointed under Caesar. Respected among everyone. She felt Philosophy and the Government were becoming too secular. There were rumors that she was a demigod of Jupiter as on her appointment there was a lightning storm.

During the civil war, Caesar confronted Cecelia for advice numerous times, whenever he planned a risky military tactic.

18. (i) **Vladimirus Ulianus**: Merchant from a wealthy Carthaginian family, who has traveled all throughout the empire, hearing the perspectives of many. After settling in Rome, he gained a strong following amongst the working class of the City. An incredibly charismatic and rational person, his speeches gathered large crowds, and a few times, started riots. Prior to the death of Caesar, his political career was flourishing, as a tribune of the plebs. He functioned largely as a voice for the people and was always looking to benefit them, regardless of how that might affect the ruling elite.

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