

Example Opening Statements Workshop

Discuss the following actual student opening statements and how well they follow the Opening Statement structure for diplomatic language:

1. General salutation
2. Statement of problem facing country
3. What the country has done
4. Statement of problem facing broader international community
5. Signaling of policy intent

Opening Statement #1

Country: China

The China Water Scarcity Delegation is looking forward to interacting with other distinguished delegations from the international community on the issue of global water scarcity and pollution. We believe that by working together we can make progress towards preserving our global water resources.

1. The problem today is that our water is being polluted at a unbelievable rate! Many countries that are trying to advance into the current age of manufacturing use water and as they use it, it becomes increasingly more polluted.

2. Everyone needs water to survive. Pollution and acid rain enter the water. It poisons the water so people cannot drink from it, People in some countries then have to choose between drinking the polluted water or dying from thirst. Most people in first world countries take clean drinking water for granted.

3. The international community needs to remedy the current water scarcity and pollution situation for many reasons. For example, if a country has highly polluted water resources their pollution can leak and spread into a neighboring countries water sources. Also a country cannot worry about other pressing international issues such as women's rights and free trade if that country cannot maintain enough water for its people

4. China has many water problems, including polluted rivers and water shortages in some of its northern regions. However China has set many goals for the next few years in order to clean up its water as well as conserve it better. These plans include brand new sewage treatment plants, water saving irrigation techniques and the public promotion of water conservation in daily municipal use.

The Chinese Water Scarcity Delegation is looking forward to hearing the other delegations' input on the above mentioned topics.

Opening Statement #2

Country: Germany

Hello. We will be considering all available options for improving the water supply and situation in Germany and other countries we will be working with. We will be focused on water issues in our country and other allying countries. We look forward to communicating with you and hopefully finding some solutions to our world's problems.

As the environmental group, we feel that we have certain mishaps in our surroundings. Through oil spills and acid rain, our environment has gone through challenges, but now we are trying our best to remove all harmful substances and to diminish the residue left from previous incidences. Unfortunately, we haven't had much success through our efforts, although we have tried thoroughly to obtain environmental purity. We hope that all of the different sub-groups will bear with us and try to make the best effort to continue to strive for a better ecosystem.

We would like to work with each country to try to create a cleaner environment. We are willing to make any compromises for the good of our country and other countries. If there are any ideas or statements to be made, please let us know. We would like everyone's input to help us achieve our goals of environmental success.