Students represent a country to discuss issues and reach agreement on a plan that will work for all participating countries to address the issue. The instructor tells students that they:

- will be representing that country as its representative to the United Nations.
- are given a topic of discussion
- will research that country’s position on the selected issue
- will try to create a plan that works for all represented countries

Sample topics:
- Examining the International Declaration of Human Rights
- Weapons of Mass Destruction
- Free Trade
- Child Labor
- International trade
- Agricultural subsidies

Tips for country selection:
- Although it may seem unfair that a student represents the US, including the American perspective in your discussion will be useful.
- Choose an issue that has frequently been in the news and pick some countries with well-publicized positions and others whose position is less well known.
- Do some checking yourself so that you can advise students who have trouble finding information.

Try to get a variety of East/West, Industrialized/Developing, different religions and philosophies of government, if possible.

Task:
You are your country’s representative to the United Nations and will be working with representatives from other countries to create a plan to address (topic). All countries have agreed to make a plan that will work for all participating countries.

Find the position on (topic) of the country you represent. Then think about what you want to say about your country. Listen to the representatives of the other countries.

Sample introduction: Hello and welcome to the representatives of their respective countries who graciously agreed to spend time today discussing (see sample topics) and clarifying their country’s position on X. We will begin with (student name) from (country). Each representative will have X minutes to present their county’s official position. We will discuss to arrive at a common plan after each has had a turn.
Practical tips:
  • The teacher or a student in a group that is not speaking could introduce the “representatives” and their countries.
  • A time keeper is needed to monitor the length of the speaking turns

Suggested Rubric:
Advanced Analytic Rubric for Role Play or Advanced Holistic Rubric for Role Play