



## **Model Senate Roles and Responsibilities**

### ***Committee Co-Chair (Student Leader)***

*The World Affairs Council's Model Senate will simulate a congressional hearing and the legislative process with students serving as Senators, Committee Co-Chairs, Expert Witnesses, and Journalists. Students will have the opportunity to write collaborative policy resolutions, hear from Expert Witness, and debate and discuss critical issues in U.S. domestic and foreign policy.*

#### **Committee Co-Chair Role**

Committee Co-Chairs serve a dual role in this program, **acting as both a Senator and as committee leader**. Co-Chairs are responsible for orchestrating the committee sessions and are tasked with moving through the day's agenda, meeting deadlines, and fulfilling program goals. Co-Chairs act as emcees for the committee session, following a pre-created script and timeline from the Council, keeping the committee session on task. Committee co-chairs also facilitate the questioning of expert witnesses and establish the order and timing for speakers among other responsibilities.

Students assuming the role of Committee Co-Chair will also be assigned a Senator to role-play. The role of Senator is the foundational position in the Model Senate program, and students assigned to the role of Senator will be tasked with emulating their policy positions, voting record, and background. Students filling these roles are tasked with preparing speeches and lines of questioning for expert witnesses, debating potential solutions, and ultimately, crafting and voting on resolutions aimed at solving pressing global issues.

There will be two Co-Chairs for each committee, the Chairperson and the Ranking Member. These two students will split responsibilities throughout the day and will work together to meet program goals and deliverables.

**Students interested in this position are required to interview for the position.** Critical skills for this position include: peer leadership, organization, planning and forethought, public speaking, and adaptability.

**Preparation Level:** High



**WORLD AFFAIRS COUNCIL**  
*of Philadelphia*

**Responsibilities:**

Co-Chair:

- Attend a virtual preparatory meeting with Council Staff determined by the Council's Education staff to review the role of Co-Chair, and the Co-Chair guidelines and script;
- Draft a 2-minute opening speech to be delivered at the beginning of the committee session that gives an overview of the committee's main goals of the day and the importance of the committee's topic-in-focus;
- Review the Co-Chair script in advance of the Model Senate program;
- Execute the pre-created Co-chair script during the conference, and fulfill all duties as program lead.

Senator:

- Research your assigned Senator and complete the *'Get to Know Your Senator Worksheet'*;
- Research your assigned subcommittee and assigned topic, and complete the *'Topic and Subcommittee Worksheet'*;
- Briefly research the Expert Witnesses who will testify at your subcommittee hearing and prepare at least two thoughtful questions to ask each witness.