



Royal Model United Nations
2026

HCC

UĞUR
CEBECİ

PRESIDENT CHAIR

METEHAN
YILDIRIM

DEPUTY CHAIR



Royal Model United Nations 2026

LETTER FROM THE SECRETARIAT

Dearest participants of ROYMUN'26,

It is the greatest honor to welcome you to the first edition of Royal Model United Nations 2026 and our HCC committee.

While shaping the ideas from the very beginning, our main goal was to ensure an extensive experience with both academic and organisational perfection.

In this prestigious committee, you will be raising impeccable ideas, debating about the current and the upcoming process, building new structures and turning the non-integrated actions and solutions to a masterpiece. Your board members will be guiding you to reach perfection in any situation.

While preparing, you will be discovering every single step about your topic and you may even find yourself in the middle of this sequence of events. It will be clear that you embrace your role in the committee.

Keep in mind that every speech you deliver, every motion you give, every question that you ask will gain a new perspective for everyone. The key point is to remain active and work confidentially while shaping the decision-making process with your colleagues.

As the Secretary-General, I am impatiently waiting to see your intelligent work and looking forward to sharing this royal experience with you.

Sincerely,

Imge Belgin

Secretary-General of ROYMUN'26



Royal Model United Nations 2026

LETTER FROM THE CHAIRBOARD

Dear delegates,

I would like to extend my welcome to all of you as I am very excited to serve as your academic team member during the upcoming three days of ROYMUN'26.

Our committee is very experimental. Thus, we will be focusing on a debate-based progression system and see if it is viable. I'd like to thank my Deputy Chair Metehan for his efforts on the guide and the committee.

See you all!

Warmly,

Uğur Cebeci

ugurcebeci124@gmail.com

+905511946150



TABLE OF CONTENTS:

1. Letter from Secretary General

2. Letter from the Board

3. Rules of Procedure

What is a Crisis Committee?

What are Directives and How to Write One?

4. Introduction to the Committee

5. Background of the Odyssey

Ithaca and King Odysseus

Odysseus' Palace and the Bed

The Trojan War and the Ithacans

The Trojan Horse

6. The Odyssey

First Year

Second Year

Ogygia

Arrival

7. Committee Matrix

8. Relevant Seafaring and Contextual Information

9. Bibliography



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Rules of Procedure

For this part of the guide, we would like to credit Kadircan Yıldız for his work, as this part has been written by him.

What is a Crisis Committee?

There are many types of committees in model United Nations conferences. Mostly, there are the classic general assembly type committees that follow the Harvard rules of procedures. Crisis committees are quite different from these. Normally, a Crisis Team exists to work in tandem with the Board Members. However, for this committee the Board will serve as the Crisis Team as well.

Firstly, the allocations of the delegates are not restricted to countries, NGOs or corporations. They may very well be specific people. Also, the chairboard may have allocations as well. Generals, presidents, prime or other ministers, kings and queens may be allocated to the participants depending on the topic of the committee.

Secondly, agendas are narrower. They mostly concern lower populations instead of a global threat. However, seeing a topic with global effect may as well exist. Usually, it is a war or a political issue that has been focused on. Another difference is the number of participants. Crisis committees consist of cabinets. Cabinets have a lower number of participants compared to the general assembly type committees. The number of cabinets is also dependent on the topic but it is mostly one or two.

Some other difference is that there is no final document in the crisis committees. No resolution paper exists. Instead, different documents are written throughout the committee. These documents are separated into two groups: directives and others.

Directives are the documents participants write to take immediate or a later-planned action within the committee. Moving soldiers from a place to another may be an example. There are three main types of directives: individual, joint and committee. As it is pretty obvious by the names of them, they differ by the number of authors. There are also information directives which are written in order to get information about the situations, assets, etc. How the procedure goes is that once a directive is written, the author(s) present it to the chairboard and they evaluate it before sending it to the crisis team for updates.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Since the chairboard also has allocations, delegates may not feel comfortable sharing their directives with them. It may be a private matter, a secret plan or even an assassination. At such times, delegates may mark their directives as top secret and those directives will go to the crisis team directly. Other types of documents include press releases, declarations etc.

Lastly, caucuses of crisis committees are divided into three groups: moderated, unmoderated and semi-moderated. The first two are the caucuses that every committee has. Semi-moderated is a little different. In these, there is no individual speaking time. Delegates may speak as much as they wish to. Thus, when giving a motion for a semi-moderated caucus, specifying only the total time is enough. Delegates must remain seated throughout the caucus just like in moderated caucuses. These types of caucuses are used because it is enabling the debate to run more smoothly without the delays of the chairboard asking for speakers or a show of placards.

What are Directives and How to Write One?

In a Crisis Committee, there are five types of papers that can be submitted. Each type has its own purpose, advantages, and disadvantages. Unless it is a top secret directive, directives should be given to the chair, who will then send them to the crisis team via admins.

Personal Directive

Personal directives are written when an action is within your character's authority or is possible due to their abilities. Now take a look at how to write a Personal Directive: Firstly, there is a format for writing directives; thus, one has to write who is sending the directive and to whom (from, to). After that, which cabinet is sending the directive, then the real-world time and the current date of the committee. Lastly, the type of your directive and the headline of it. And that's it; this is all the format one needs to know to write a directive. The only thing left is the content of the directive, and the method by which one writes it is fairly straightforward; it is written by addressing the WH questions, which are what, why, when, who, where, and, most importantly, how. Write down the action you want to take by answering the WH questions, then detailing and explaining it as much as possible to ensure that your plan is as comprehensive as possible. Also, the use of the future tense is critical, try to use it whenever possible. Here is how a directive looks on paper:

From: Menelaus Personal Directive Date: 1192 BC May 3
To: Related Authorities Time: 12.34
(Spartan Cabinet)



Royal Model United Nations 2026

What: I will capture Tiryns with my 5,000 agoge men stationed on the Tiryns frontline. My soldiers will kill and destroy any enemy forces they come across, as well as any enemy military bases. Women and children in the city will not be murdered unless they attack the soldiers.

Why: Tiryns plays a crucial role in the war, and it must be captured in order to cut the enemy's supply lines.

When: Soldiers will charge at 02.00 a.m. to catch the enemy off guard.

Who: I will be operating this attack, and if I fall during the war, my right-hand man, Analus, will take over. 5,000 agoge soldiers will assault the enemy under his command.

Where: 2,500 of my soldiers will charge from the southeast frontline, and the other 2,500 will charge from the west to capture Tiryns.

How*: To reduce noise, the 5,000 agoge soldiers will be divided into 50 groups, with 100 soldiers per group. Soldiers will check and control their weapons before charging. Each group will have a commander, and the commanders will be the best warriors among their groups. They will be well-armed with their hoplons, xiphos, and dorus (Spartan agoge soldiers' shields, spearheads, and small swords). Each group will apply the doctrine properly to face the fewest casualties. If needed, 3 soldiers from each group will bring supplies to their own group from the frontlines, and these 3 soldiers will be picked randomly from the commanders. They will take the safest route and avoid the enemy. Our men will take the safe paths suggested by our spies. They will pray, remember how brave they are, and then honour their nation and gods by demolishing the enemy. They will not disobey their commander's orders and apply the doctrine as they say. To avoid being affected by attrition, our soldiers will study their geographical situation as well as the enemy's to use it in their favour. They will not be wearing inappropriate armour and clothing, only those that will fit the current climate. Any careless mistakes shall not be forgiven and the commanders of the groups will eliminate the soldiers who made the mistake such as sleeping on a night's watch. If by any chance a soldier catches a disease that may spread he will be killed if there are no precautions that can be taken in order to heal him without letting it spread. If the siege and the road take unusually long to take and pass they will shave properly to prevent any lice growing, mating and distracting the soldiers. Soldiers will use an offensive phalanx formation when I order them to charge, and they will slaughter each enemy troop they face. They will use the offensive formation until they face a larger enemy force to quickly capture as many critical areas as possible. If they face a larger enemy force, to be exact, 1.5 times larger than them, they will quickly change to a defensive phalanx formation and wait for recruitment while defending themselves. Their priority will be killing the enemy rather than cutting supply lines. In mountain areas, they will use the highlands in their favour and quickly oppress the enemy to finish them. Once they reach the city, their priority will be killing the cabinet members of Tiryns. If possible, they will defenestrate them to entertain themselves. Meaning of mercy will disappear from their minds and any offers made by the enemy will be rejected for they have disrespected our Nation. After the military bases and the city are captured, soldiers will go to the possible conflict areas to recruit other soldiers. Even though we've sent spies before, our soldiers will be vigilant for any kind of trap. Their main objective is to capture the city, and for that purpose, they will sacrifice themselves without hesitation.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Once one gets used to it, it is quite simple and straightforward to write. While it lacks details and additional information, the directive nicely illustrates its format. As one keeps writing and contributing to their cabinet's goals, in no time one will witness that the directives one has written have already surpassed that one above. And to write such a directive, here are a few tips and tricks:

- For every action that is written in the directive, it has to answer all the WH questions.
- The longer and more detailed, the better.
- Drawing your war doctrine, charging plan, or strategy may significantly increase the directive's preciseness and effectiveness. The success rate of the directive will grow in proportion to how clear your action and directive are.
- Do not use abbreviations such as "etc."; instead, detail the directive explicitly.
- WH questions are not necessarily broken into paragraphs (one can write the directive like a book), but if you are a beginner, doing so will dramatically improve the quality of your directive, hence, it is strongly recommended.
- In JCCs, one should not try to impose their ideas or policies on others but rather to achieve a specific goal, such as destroying the other cabinet; therefore, do not be hesitant to ask for help from other cabinet members or your chair, you are all in this together.
- If you are positive that there is no impostor in the cabinet, directives should be written separately because it will be much faster. If you need the authority of another cabinet member, simply ask that person to add their name to the "from:" section. That way, eight people will be working on eight different tasks, and it will save quite a lot of time.
- Precise information, like troop counts, is critical; do not forget to write them down.
- If needed, fake names can be used for strategic persons in the directives, like Coxus, the Naval Commander.



Joint Directive

Directives written by more than one individual are considered joint directives. Joint directives are written when one can only achieve the purpose of the directive by utilising the authority of other cabinet members. Consider the scenario where one is a commander responsible for capturing Warsaw. Recognising the insurmountable challenge of achieving this objective without air superiority, a collaborative effort can be initiated by writing a joint directive with the Air Force general. In this case, the "from" field of the directive would include the commander's name alongside the name of the air force general, and instead of a personal directive, you write Joint Directive at the top of the directive. Everything else is the same.

Committee Directive

A committee directive is written when one wishes to use everyone's authority or when one is about to deliver their final directive (in most cases). The committee directive is essentially formulated collaboratively within the confines of your cabinet, with the members of your cabinet. Although it is formally referred to as a "Committee Directive," its essence remains akin to that of a cabinet directive. So, simply writing Committee Directive in the "from:" part will do.

Top Secret

Top Secret directives are those that your chair is not allowed to read. Top secret directives are directly handed to the admin. They are written precisely the same, but one must fold the paper and write "TOP SECRET" on the back side of it. The major reason for writing a Top Secret Directive is treason, a diabolical strategy to crash one's own cabinet or switch sides. For instance, if a person secretly kills his cabinet members and becomes dictator, the winning condition changes and only that person wins, whereas the cabinet loses. But I do not recommend writing Top Secret Directives unless you're planning on writing a brilliant 10-page directive, because failing to do so will backfire much worse. If one fails to accomplish their nefarious plan and gets busted, one will earn their cabinet's distrust and may die and be given an insignificant character. Additionally, updates to the Top Secret Directives are only sent to the person who sent them unless they directly affect other cabinet members.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Press Release (Declamation)

Press Releases are written when one wants to make a declaration, a speech, or a notice. When one writes a press release, depending on the era of the committee, the other cabinet members may hear it or not. In our case, there are no printers, social media, or newspapers, so it is very unlikely to hear other cabinets' press releases. The format is once again exactly the same, except for the "WH Questions" part. For example:

From: Erwin Smith	Press Release	Date: 845 July 23
To: Related Authorities	Hyping Up the Soldiers	Time: 18.17
	(Wall Maria Cabinet)	

Everything that you thought had meaning: every hope, dream, or moment of happiness. None of it matters as you lie bleeding out on the battlefield. None of it changes what a speeding rock does to a body, we all die. But does that mean our lives are meaningless? Does that mean that there was no point in our being born? Would you say that of our slain comrades? What about their lives? Were they meaningless?... They were not! Their memory serves as an example to us all! The courageous fallen! The anguished fallen! Their lives have meaning because we, the living, refuse to forget them! And as we ride to certain death, we trust our successors to do the same for us! Because my soldiers do not buckle or yield when faced with the cruelty of this world! My soldiers push forward! My soldiers scream out! My soldiers RAAAAAGE!



Royal Model United Nations 2026

A press release like that might be written before a conflict to increase the motivation and morale of soldiers, or it could be written in any way one wishes, depending on their goal. Since one is addressing your people rather than the Crisis Team, the language can be informal. Plus, press releases can prevent crises, especially those related to the public; they can be used for propaganda, making promises, or spreading misinformation. This is a different form of press release that could be submitted:

From: Rollo Declamation Date: 802 August 28
To: Related Authorities Standing our Ground Time: 10.27
(Frankish Kingdom Cabinet)

All of my life and all of your lives have come to this point. There is nowhere else to be but here. Nowhere else to live or die but here. To be here now is the **only** thing that matters. So, gather yourselves. Gather all of your strength, all of your sweetness into an iron ball. For we will attack again and again until we reach and overcome their king or die in the attempt! We will attack! Attack! Attack! Blow the horns! Beat the drums! And have courage! For there will be no turning back. Only victory! Or death!

And for this committee, we will allow you to write Declamation instead of Press Release because declamation is a more accurate term for the times.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

4. Introduction to the Committee

Welcome to the HCC: Odyssey committee. This Study Guide is intended to be a manual on being a good delegate for the duration of the committee.

a. Committee Secretariat and the Crisis Team

The Committee Secretariat consists of the Board Members. There is no separate Crisis Team for the committee. The Board Members also serve as the Heads of Crisis.

b. The Chairboards

The Chairboard consists of the Board Members. Their role is to supervise and lead the delegates, review all directives before officially moving the directives to CS. As the CS will also sit in the chairboard, one of the Board Members won't be participating chairs.

One of the board members will hold the King Odysseus of Ithaca allocation.

c. Delegates

Each delegate represents either a crew member; or they represent leaders of various clans. A character guide is provided in the latter sections of the guide.



5. Background of the Odyssey

a. Ithaca and King Odysseus

Ithaca was portrayed as a kingdom in the Mycenaean Era and is best known from Homer's *Odyssey*. According to the epic, Ithaca was an island in western Greece, in the Ionian Sea, and was the homeland and kingdom of Odysseus. Although Ithaca was not one of the largest or wealthiest kingdoms of the Greek world, it held great political and symbolic meaning in the story of Odysseus. The island represented the idea of homecoming, family and legitimacy in the epic.

Politically, during the Mycenaean Era, Greece was fragmented into several small monarchies rather than a unified state. They had their own rulers, customs, and armies. Ithaca was one of these small kingdoms ruled by King Odysseus. Other than Ithaca, there were Mycenae under Agamemnon, Sparta under Menelaus and Pylos under Nestor. These kingdoms could cooperate in case of major conflicts, as they did in the Trojan War, but they remained separate political units with their own rulers, interests, and internal problems. Therefore, Odysseus' absence not only created a family crisis but also weakened the political stability of the Kingdom of Ithaca.

As the King of Ithaca, Odysseus was a king favoured with great intelligence. He was not just a warrior who ruled with armies and brute force, such as Agamemnon of Mycenae. He was a political leader, strategist and a protector of his household. His power and authority depended more on his mind, reputation and legitimacy than on overwhelming military power, trying to rule vast lands with wealthy kingdoms. In Homeric tradition, Odysseus is often remembered for his cunning mind, skilled speech, persuading others, and his ability to survive extreme situations through strategy instead of brute force. These qualities made him significant during the Trojan War and helped him rule the Kingdom of Ithaca. Hence, the future of Ithaca was closely connected to Odysseus, and the consequences of his absence were going to be devastating, since it meant Ithaca's main authority source to disappear.

After Odysseus went to fight against the Trojans, the Kingdom of Ithaca was left without a ruler for years. This absence of power led Penelope's suitors to challenge his authority over Ithaca. They occupied the palace, consumed the household wealth and pressured his wife Penelope to marry another man. Moreover, her suitors threatened the legitimacy of his family line and the authority of his household. Consequently, Ithaca became the center of a legitimacy crisis, raising questions of loyalty and succession, all tied to Odysseus' return.



b. Odysseus' Palace and the Bed

King Odysseus' palace was not just an ordinary place where he lived, it was the political, economic and symbolic center of Ithaca. The palace represented Odysseus' wealth, authority and legitimate rule over Ithaca. That is because in the Homeric world, palaces were the center and symbols of a kingdom. Hence, the disorder in his palace was reflecting the wider instability of Ithaca itself. When Odysseus left his palace to fight against the Trojans and was absent for many years, his palace became vulnerable to internal threats. In this context, the palace should be understood not just as a place where Odysseus stays but as the symbol of his authority and family legacy.

One of the major events caused by the absence of Odysseus is the occupation of the palace by the suitors. They entered his palace as guests and potential husbands for Penelope. However, their attitude towards Odysseus' authority gradually changed as they started to challenge his legacy and throne. Additionally, they consumed the household wealth by holding huge feasts with lots of expense. Moreover, they pressured Penelope to choose one of them as a husband. Their actions were assaults on the family's dignity and weakened the stability of Ithaca. These suitors' presence was not just about a challenge over marriage. Since the palace holds a symbolic, political and economic meaning over Ithaca, by marrying Penelope, they were aiming to get closer to the throne of Ithaca and play a significant role in its policy.

This made Penelope's role extremely important as she was both a wife and the queen of Ithaca. She became the central figure through the events that would decide the royal household's fate. If she remarried, her new husband would potentially gain control of the palace and political influence over Ithaca. Therefore, the suitors' pressure was not just about a romantic relationship; it was about Odysseus' dynasty and legitimacy. Nonetheless, Penelope's refusal to marry delayed the ambition of the suitors and protected the possibility of Odysseus' return. Thus, her loyalty was not only a matter of marriage, but it was about political stability and the future of Odysseus' dynasty.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Telemachus also played a crucial role during the crisis. Since he was the son of Odysseus, he represented the continuation of the royal family line and the future of Ithaca's leadership. However, at the beginning of the Odyssey, Telemachus was really young, inexperienced and did not have the authority, reputation and strength of his father. Although he was the legitimate heir to the throne, he wasn't successful to protect the throne and the palace from suitors. His weakness allowed suitors to act more boldly, creating the chaotic crisis time of Ithaca. As a result, the palace became the place of uncertainty and a succession crisis between the legitimate heir and the aristocracy of Ithaca.

Laertes, Odysseus's father, also showed weakness of the old royal order during the absence of Odysseus. Although he was from the previous generations and wasn't an active political force in the palace. His absence from the center of power made the crisis even deeper, because neither the older generation nor the younger generation could fully replace Odysseus. This created a dangerous gap in authority. The royal household stands, but its key figures were absent or weak. Therefore, suitors were able to act, thinking that Odysseus wasn't going to return.

The bed of Odysseus and Penelope carried even deeper symbolic meaning within the royal household. In the Odyssey, Penelope tests Odysseus when he returns. She refers to their marriage bed, asking a question only the real Odysseus can know, and Odysseus responds, saying the tree was made from a living olive tree; unless its source isn't destroyed, it can't be moved from one place to another. This detail transforms the bed into more than a piece of furniture. This detail transforms the bed into more than a piece of furniture. It becomes a symbol of permanence, identity, and legitimacy. Since the bed is physically rooted in the ground, it reflects the rooted nature of Odysseus' marriage, household, and connection to Ithaca.

The oil tree itself adds another meaning to the bed. Olive trees are strongly connected to stability, endurance, and sacred value in Greek culture. By building his bed around a living olive tree, Odysseus created a marriage bed that was literally rooted in the land of Ithaca. This made the bed a symbol of the bond between the wife and husband, but also the bond of a king to his kingdom. When Penelope asks the question, she's not only testing whether that man is his husband, but also she tests whether that man survived those years of war and still stayed as the true king of Ithaca.



For the purpose of the committee, King Odysseus' palace and bed should be understood as symbols of Ithaca's political condition. The palace represents the kingdom's authority and the crisis caused by Odysseus' absence, while the bed represents the deeper foundation of his legitimacy to Ithaca. Together, they show that the conflict in Ithaca was not only about physical control of a building or marriage to Penelope. It was about who had the right to rule, who remained loyal to the old order, and whether Odysseus' dynasty could survive the consequences of his long absence.

c. The Trojan War and the Ithacans

The Trojan War was one of the most significant conflicts in the Homeric world and directly shaped the fate of Ithaca. It began when Helen, the wife of Menelaus of Sparta, was taken to Troy by Paris, a young prince of Troy. In response, several Greek kingdoms formed a coalition, but this coalition should not be understood as a unified Greek state. It is a coalition consisting of several kings with their own armies going to war for their own interests. Odysseus was one of the kings who participated in the war with his army.

The Ithacans were not among the most powerful or populated army in the coalition. Compared to the Myceana or Sparta, Ithaca was a small island kingdom with limited army resources. Nonetheless, Ithaca's importance was King Odysseus' participation in the war. His role was not based on commanding the largest army but on providing intelligence, strategy and leadership in difficult times. Therefore, Ithaca's contribution to the war should be understood through Odysseus' personal abilities.

During the war, Odysseus became one of the most valuable Greek leaders because of his intelligence and strategic thinking. Unlike heroes who were mainly remembered for physical strength, Odysseus was known for his ability to solve problems through planning, speech, and deception. He could persuade other leaders, create strategies, and survive dangerous situations by using his mind. This made him especially important during a long-lasting war such as the Trojan War, where direct military force isn't enough to defeat the enemy. For the Ithacans, this meant that their influence in the war was much greater than their numbers might suggest.



However, the Trojan War had several negative consequences for Ithaca. His absence caused instability in Ithaca and left his kingdom vulnerable to internal threats. By the time Odysseus began his long journey home, Ithaca had already been left without clear leadership for a decade. This absence later allowed internal threats, especially the suitors in the palace, to challenge the authority of his household.

For this reason, the Trojan War should be seen as both a source of Odysseus' heroic reputation and the beginning of Ithaca's internal crisis. The war allowed Odysseus to prove his intelligence and leadership, but it also removed him from his kingdom for a long period of time. The Ithacans, therefore, paid a political price for their king's participation in the Greek campaign. In the context of the committee, the Trojan War is important not only because it explains Odysseus' fame, but also because it helps explain why Ithaca became unstable during his absence.

d. The Trojan Horse

The Trojan Horse was one of the most famous and decisive events of the Trojan War. After years of fighting, the Greeks were unable to capture Troy through direct military force. The city's walls and defences made a traditional victory extremely difficult. At this point, Odysseus' intelligence became more important than physical strength or numbers. Instead of continuing a war of exhaustion, the Greeks turned to strategy and psychological manipulation. The Trojan Horse, therefore, became the final solution to a conflict that could not be ended by ordinary warfare.

According to tradition, the Greeks built a large wooden horse and pretended to abandon the war. The horse was presented as a religious offering, while Greek warriors were secretly hidden inside it. The Trojans, believing that the Greeks had finally left, brought the horse into their city. This decision allowed the hidden Greek soldiers to enter Troy without breaking its walls by force. During the night, the warriors came out of the horse, opened the gates for the returning Greek army, and helped bring about the fall of the city.

Odysseus' role in the Trojan War was especially seen in the Trojan Horse, because his abilities were more likely to rely on strategic thinking and deception instead of brute strength. He understood his enemies' weaknesses, and the Trojan Horse became a deception tactic against the Trojans. It depended on making the Trojans believe that they had already won and that the danger had passed. In this sense, the plan was not only a military trick but also an example of psychological warfare.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

The success of the Trojan Horse also shows the limits of military strength in the Homeric world. For many years, the Greek coalition had strong warriors, famous kings, and large armies, yet Troy remained standing. The fall of the city came only when the Greeks changed their method of war. Instead of relying on open battle, they used secrecy and manipulation. This made Odysseus' type of intelligence as powerful as any weapon on the battlefield. The event proved that victory could come not only from courage and strength, but also from planning, deception, and the ability to exploit an enemy's trust.

For Ithaca, the Trojan Horse increased Odysseus' reputation as one of the most intelligent and dangerous Greek leaders. Although Ithaca was a small kingdom, its king played a central role in the final victory over Troy. This gave Odysseus great fame among the Greeks, but it also deepened the consequences of her absence in Ithaca. The same war that made Odysseus legendary also kept him away from Ithaca and contributed to the instability of his kingdom. Therefore, the Trojan Horse should be understood not only as the end of the Trojan War, but also as a turning point that shaped Odysseus' legacy and the future crisis of Ithaca.

In the context of the committee, the Trojan Horse is important because it represents the main political and military war tactics with Odysseus, which are intelligence over force, deception over direct conflict, and strategy over numbers. It shows that Odysseus was capable of ending a long-lasting war through an unexpected plan. However, it also raises questions about trust and the consequences of victory. The fall of Troy may have ended the war, but it did not bring peace to Odysseus or Ithaca. Instead, it marked the beginning of his long journey home and the continuation of Ithaca's internal crisis.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

6. The Odyssey

Troy is conquered, the war is over, and the Greek soldiers eager to sail home to their homes. For Odysseus and his men, however, the trip home is a protracted fight through storms and monsters, through starvation and seduction, divine anger and human weakness.

The main goal is Nostos, the Greek idea of homecoming. Odysseus' home is more than a place. Ithaca is identity, family, kingship, memory, order. If he never returns he loses more than his house. He is out of his place in the world. The journey thus poses a crucial question: what does a man have to defend to remain himself?

a. First Year

The destruction of Troy marks the first year and the beginning of Odysseus's journey. Odysseus and his men sail from Troy to try to get home to Ithaca.

Their first major stop is at Ismarus, land of the Cicones. Odysseus and his men raid the city, steal treasure, and take women. At first they seem to be successful. Odysseus, however, urges the men to depart immediately. They linger too long, eating and drinking on the shore. This delay allows the Cicones to summon reinforcements. The Cicones attack and kill many of Odysseus's men.

Then Zeus sends storms to blow the ships off their course. Familiar routes are lost to the fleet. This makes the journey a movement through unknown spaces.

The next important episode is the land of the Lotus Eaters. They give Odysseus' men a lotus, a plant that makes people forget their want to go home. The men who eat the lotus no longer wish to depart. They don't care about Ithaca, family, duty, or identity.

Odysseus drives the affected men back to the ships and binds them down until the ships depart. If a person forgets the goal, he cannot finish the journey. Odysseus and his crew survive through memory. They have to remember home, even when home is so far away.

The next big challenge is the cyclops Polyphemus. Odysseus and some of his men enter the cave of the Cyclops, expecting gifts or hospitality. Hospitality is hallowed in Greek culture. A host ought to welcome a guest, and a guest ought to respect the host. Polyphemus breaks this law altogether. He traps the men in the cave and eats a few of them.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Odysseus cannot defeat Polyphemus in strength. The Cyclops is just too strong. He tells Polyphemus that he is “Nobody.” Then he blinds the Cyclops, who is asleep. When Polyphemus calls out for help, saying that “Nobody” is hurting him, the other Cyclopes do not realize the danger. Later, Odysseus and his men escape by hiding under the bellies of Polyphemus's sheep.

He escapes and calls back to Polyphemus, telling him his true name. That is a big mistake. Polyphemus prays to Poseidon that Odysseus should suffer, lose his companions, and come home late in misery. Odysseus’s pride transforms a successful escape into the start of divine punishment.

Next, Aeolus, the keeper of the winds. Aeolus gives Odysseus a bag of the dangerous winds, and only the west wind blows the ships to Ithaca. For a while the men are close to home. They can even see Ithaca. But while Odysseus sleeps, his men open the bag, thinking it holds treasure. The released winds blow the ships far again away.

Odysseus doesn’t tell them what’s in the bag in full, and the crew think he is hiding riches from them. Their suspicion kills their own chance of getting home.

When Aeolus refuses to help them again, Odysseus and his fleet come to the land of the Laestrygonians, giant cannibals. The Laestrygonians attack the ships with huge rocks and destroy almost the whole fleet. Only Odysseus' own ship escapes, since he had moored it outside the harbor.

The first year's last great stop is Aeaea, the island of Circe, the witch. Circe was a mighty sorceress. She reduces some of Odysseus’s men to pigs, demonstrating how human beings can be reduced to animal-like helplessness when they lose control. With the help of Hermes, Odysseus resists Circe’s magic. He forces her to bring his men back to life, and she is a host and helper.

But there is another sort of danger on Circe’s island: comfort. Odysseus and his men stay there for a whole year. They eat, rest and recuperate. This is understandable after so much suffering but it also extends the journey. Finally the men remind Odysseus that they have to return home. But a safe place can be dangerous too, if it makes people forget their purpose.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

b. Second Year

The second year begins with Odysseus and his men leaving the island of Circe. Circe tells Odysseus he must go to the Underworld and consult the prophet Tiresias before he can go home. Going there alive is crossing a line that human beings are not supposed to cross.

In the Underworld, Odysseus is warned of Poseidon and the cattle of the Sun God Helios and of the difficult return home to Ithaca. He is told that they must control themselves in order to survive, especially when they reach the island of Helios.

Odysseus also meets the spirits of the dead in the Underworld, including his mother. He recalls in this moment what has happened while he has been away. His mother died of longing and grief. Odysseus learns there are penalties to delay at home. His journey is not separate from the lives of others. And every year he is gone from Ithaca is pain for his family, and disorder for his kingdom.

Odysseus leaves the underworld and returns briefly to Circe who gives him further instructions. The next hazards are not random. They are known beforehand, but knowledge of danger does not make surviving it easy.

The first major test is Sirens. The Sirens sing so well that the sailors who hear them forget all and sail for destruction. They promise to tell glorious truths and stories to Odysseus. This is a strong temptation for a man who cares for fame and knowledge.

Odysseus makes careful preparations. He commands his men to stuff their ears with wax lest they hear the song. He wants to hear it himself; so he has the crew tie him up tight to the mast. He tells them not to let him go, no matter how he begs.

Next is Scylla and Charybdis. Scylla is a monster who lives on one side of a narrow passage and snatches sailors off of ships. On the other is Charybdis, a deadly whirlpool that can destroy a whole ship. Odysseus must decide whether to risk losing everything to Charybdis, or some of his men to Scylla.

Odysseus knows some men will die, but that the ship might live, and he chooses to sail closer to Scylla. He doesn't tell the crew everything, as he is afraid they will panic. Scylla takes six men.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

Then the crew reaches the island of Helios, the Sun God. Odysseus has been warned there not to touch the sacred cattle. At first he wants to avoid the island altogether, but his men are tired and want to rest. They land and say they will not touch the cows. But evil winds keep them there a long time. Their food is gone.

While Odysseus is asleep the men kill and eat the cattle of Helios. This is the last act of defiance, which kills the crew. They know the warning but they are driven by hunger and desperation. Helios demands retribution. They leave the island and Zeus strikes the ship with a thunderbolt. All remaining crew members die. Only Odysseus remains.

By the end of the second year Odysseus has lost all his ships and all his men. He commands no longer a fleet. He's the last one left.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

c.Ogygia

Odysseus' ship is destroyed and he is cast adrift across the sea, finally reaching the island of the nymph Calypso, Ogygia. He has lost everything: his fleet, his crew, his wealth, and his leadership. He comes not as a conquering king, but as a broken man. Ogygia is therefore a place of survival after a complete disaster.

Calypso saves Odysseus and keeps him on her island. She loves him and gives him comfort and safety, even immortality. This offer is outstanding. Death is what most mortals fear, and Calypso can save Odysseus from it. He could stay with her forever, unmarked by age and shielded from pain.

But Odysseus does not really embrace this life. He remains on Ogygia for seven years, but he continues to yearn for Ithaca. Homer shows him sitting on the beach, looking out to sea and crying. Odysseus is safe in body but trapped in emotion and spirit. Ogygia is lovely, but it is not home.

Odysseus can't simply punch his way out. He must wait till the gods will give him up. Zeus is asked by Athena and Hermes is sent to order Calypso to let Odysseus go. Still Odysseus must make himself a raft and brave the sea once more.

And Calypso says he may go, and Odysseus is cautious. He does not immediately take up the offer. He demands she swear an oath that she is not planning to trick him.

Then Odysseus builds a raft. It is a little thing but it is important. A king who once had many ships to command has to build a small boat with his own hands. The picture is of his fall in status, but also of his power. Again he has begun. He is good at practice. He can work patiently to get back, even after losing everything.

Poseidon sees Odysseus at sea and makes another storm. The raft is broken to pieces and Odysseus is nearly drowned. The sea is a place of punishment and testing. Odysseus swims for days, aided by the sea goddess Ino, who provides him with a protective veil, until he reaches land.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

d. Arrival

Odysseus, having left Ogygia, and survived a storm raised by Poseidon, lands on the island of the Phaeacians, called Scheria. He is alone and naked and tired. He sleeps beneath leaves. This arrival is a far cry from the proud warrior who left Troy. Odysseus has been reduced to the most elemental human state: a stranger needing assistance.

The Phaeacian episode is important because it reminds the poem of the theme of hospitality. Odysseus encounters Nausicaa, daughter of King Alcinous and Queen Arete. She helps him, showing her courage and kindness. She tells him where the palace is, and how to ask for help. Odysseus must now survive not by fighting, but by speaking with wisdom and respect.

Odysseus does not at once declare who he is at the court of the Phaeacians. He waits. He picks the right time.

The Phaeacians feed and honour Odysseus and then ask him who he is. And then he tells the story of his wanderings. This storytelling isn't just entertainment. It is a way for Odysseus to re-assert his identity. He tells his own story after years of losses. He tells of where he has been, what he has suffered, and why he must return home.

At last the Phaeacians bring Odysseus back to Ithaca, still asleep. This is a huge turning point. He has come to his homeland for the first time in years. But arrival does not mean the end of peril. Ithaca itself was in confusion. His palace is overrun with suitors, his wealth is wasted, his wife Penelope is being urged to remarry, and the future of his son Telemachus is under threat.

Odysseus arrives in Ithaca, but he can't just walk into the palace and introduce himself. If he does, he could be killed.

Athena changes Odysseus into a beggar. This disguise enables him to enter his own land unrecognized. It also allows him to test the people around him. He can see who is loyal and who is dirty. He encounters Eumaeus, the faithful swineherd, and later reveals his identity to Telemachus. Father and son conspire to kill the suitors.

Penelope is also at the heart of the arrival. She has been faithful, but she is not a fool or passive. She uses her intelligence to stall the suitors, most notably by the ruse of weaving and unweaving Laertes' burial shroud. Like Odysseus, she has to hold on to patience and cunning to survive.

The bow becomes the ultimate public marker of Odysseus's identity. The suitors fail to string Odysseus's bow but Odysseus, disguised as a beggar, succeeds. He shoots an arrow through the axes, displaying his power and skill. Having done this, he reveals himself and kills the suitors with the help of Telemachus, Eumaeus, Philoetius and Athena.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

7. Committee Matrix

Eurylochus	Second-in-command
Perimedes	Senior warrior-companion
Polites	Chief scout
Elpenor	Youngest crewman
Eurybates	Herald and messenger
Antiphus	Veteran crewman
Damon	Captain of Ship II
Lykon	Captain of Ship III
Theron	Captain of Ship IV
Nikandros	Captain of Ship V
Menestheus	Captain of Ship VI



Royal Model United Nations 2026

7. Committee Matrix

Alkimos	Captain of Ship VII
Philon	Captain of Ship VIII
Kleon	Captain of Ship IX
Thestor	Captain of Ship X
Ariston	Captain of Ship XI
Nereus	Chief helmsman
Melanthios	Master Navigator
Charidemos	Quartermaster
Leandros	Chief Oarsman
Timon	Shipwright and Carpenter
Alexios	Weapons Master
Phaidon	Chief Lookout
Mestor	Campmaster
Iason	Foraging Leader
Sosikles	Medical Attendant
Echephron	Priest
Phemius	Singer
Drakon	Watch Captain
Orestes	Singer



8.Relevant Seafaring and Contextual Information

Seafaring is one of the most important parts of Odysseus' homecoming since it includes long voyages at sea. In the *Odyssey*, the sea was not just a route between two places. It was a place full of uncertainty, danger, divine punishment, and leadership challenges. After the end of the Trojan War, Odysseus and his men had to take a long route to return to Ithaca. This route consisted of many threats, and his crew faced several challenges, encountering unfamiliar lands and dealing with the consequences of angering the gods during their return. Therefore, seafaring should be understood as a major part of Odysseus' journey.

In the Homeric world, sea travel was uncertain and dangerous. In that world, ships depended heavily on winds, weather conditions, coastal knowledge, and the crew's discipline. A tiny wrong decision could lead to starvation, shipwreck, getting lost or conflicts with unknown people and sometimes gods. Moreover, the route made exterior aid impossible. As a result, Odysseus could not rely on any exterior support from other Greek kingdoms during his journey. Instead, he has to lead his crew through great risks with limited resources.

Odysseus' leadership was tested most strongly during this journey. As captain and king, he had to make difficult decisions about where to sail, land, manage supplies, and how to keep his men loyal. Many of the dangers he faced were not only caused by creatures or storms but also his crew's weaknesses, fear and disobedience. The actions of his crew often created new problems, showing that successful seafaring not only requires a skilled leader but also discipline and trust among the men.

The gods also play a crucial role in seafaring. In the Homeric world, storms and delays are often caused by natural danger, but sometimes they are caused by divine anger and punishment. Poseidon is one of the major gods who has an impact on sea journeys since he is the god of the seas. Moreover, in *Odyssey*, Poseidon's hostility toward Odysseus made the journey home much longer and more dangerous. Therefore, respecting the gods and avoiding any religious violations were essential for survival. A journey could not only fail because of poor navigation, but also because of divine punishment.



Royal Model United Nations 2026

The geography of Odysseus' journey should also be understood carefully. Many of the places he visits are mythical and are believed to be connected to the Mediterranean world. Because of this, the journey should not be treated as a simple, realistic map from Troy to Ithaca. Instead, it should be seen as a mixture of geography and mythology. Each island or sea passage creates a new challenge for Odysseus and his men, forcing them to respond to different forms of crisis.

For the committee's purpose, seafaring is important because it gives the possibility of different crises to emerge. Ship damages, storms, starvation, disobedience, unknown islands with unknown creatures and most importantly, divine punishments can all become problems for you. Odysseus' journey shows that survival at sea depends on more than courage. It requires strategy, patience, discipline, and the ability to make decisions under pressure. Therefore, the sea should be understood as one of the main parts where Odysseus' leadership and the fate of his men are tested.



9. Bibliography

- Richmond Lattimore, trans., *The Iliad of Homer* (Chicago: University of Chicago Press, 1951), 91-92.
- Robert Fitzgerald, trans., *The Odyssey of Homer*, 1998.
- Virgil, and Thomas Chase. *The Aeneid of Virgil*. Philadelphia, Eldredge & brother, 1884.
- Gumpert, Matthew. *Grafting Helen*. University of Wisconsin Press. 2001.
- Apollodorus. *The Library* [by] Apollodorus. Cambridge, Mass.: Harvard University Press, 1921.
- Euripides. *The Helen of Euripides*. Cambridge [Eng.] :The University Press, 1925.
- Euripides. *Trojan Women*. Warminster, Wiltshire, England : Atlantic Highlands, N.J. : Aris & Phillips ; Distributed in the U.S.A. and Canada by Humanities Press, 1986.
- Alcaeus. "Fragment 283 (N1)." *Sappho's Lyre: Archaic Greek Lyrics by Women among Others*, translated by Diane Rayor, University of California Press, 1991, pp. 150-51.
- Pindar. *Nemean Odes, Isthmian Odes, Fragments*. Edited and translated by William H. Race, Loeb Classical Library 485, Harvard UP, 1997.
- Ovid. *Metamorphoses*. Translated by Frank Justus Miller, revised by G. P. Goold, 3rd ed., vol. 1, Loeb Classical Library 42, Harvard UP, 1977.
- Hesiod. *The Shield, Catalogue of Women, Other Fragments*. Edited and translated by Glenn W. Most, Loeb Classical Library 503, Harvard UP, 2007.

Note from the authors: We have referred to the texts above, however as is the not-so-academical nature of our committee, we find it important to note that this committee is hand-crafted by the committee secretariat. As you may notice while doing further research, myths often conflict. In the guide and in the committee, we have taken a selection that is mostly based on these texts. However, due to the fact of the scale of some of these epics, they overlap and contradict each other- many times with the specific intent of re-writing the older ones. Take the study guide as your only guide for mythical information related to this committee.



Royal Model United Nations
2026