

This document contains materials for a role-play debate simulation taught by Dr. Katie Logan from Virginia Commonwealth University in UNIV 111/112 during the Spring 2020 semester:

Political Ads & Debate Project

UN Resolution Model

## *City and the City* Group Project

### Political Ads and Debate

Ads due Wed., 2/19

Debate: Monday, 2/24

#### The Basics

Now that you've presented your video essay and formed alliances, it's time to convince the UN what their next step should be: Should they pass a resolution on the unification of Beszel and Ul Qoma? Should they allow things to go on as they are? Or is there an alternative option for which you'd like to advocate? These choices will be the subject of your political advertisement and the content of your debate pitch.

#### Political Ads

- Must be **exactly** 30 seconds or one full newspaper page (if you'd like to experiment with another format it must be approved by me by Friday the 14th)
- Must demonstrate a clear and creative approach to your desired outcome
- CANNOT feature hate speech, unsubstantiated fearmongering, or other forms of misinformation
- Must feature a catchy, memorable slogan and/or logo
- Must be closed captioned and circulated to the class on Wednesday, 2/19

#### Debate: A Town Hall Meeting

- 3-minute opening pitches
- 10 minutes Q&A with adjudicators
- 10 minutes Q&A among teams and adjudicators
- 5 minute re-group
- 2-minute final pitch

Given this structure, you and your team will need to prepare 1) an opening statement; 2) a closing statement that MAY be changed by the flow of the conversation; 3) questions for opposing teams; 4) answers to possible questions that the adjudicators may ask.

#### Delegation

Because this is a group assignment with two components, it's essential that you figure out and play to your teammates' strengths. I don't expect every team member to speak during the debate or to feature in the political ad, although everyone should contribute at least something to each element. During your first team meeting, you need to assign each member a role. Here are some possible options:

- Film director
- Brand manager (designs the group’s logo, slogan, ensures continuity between ad and debate messaging)
- Public relations (speaks during the debate; prepared to communicate the group’s message)
- Cross-examiner (specializes in researching and counterarguing with the other groups)
- Chief strategist (takes notes and analyzes during the debate and when watching other ads; helps craft responses)
- Expert witness (returns to the world of *The City and the City*; gathers evidence)

You can of course come up with your own, but these should get you started!

### Grading

Collectively, the ad and debate are worth 100 points as your formal group project. Here’s the grading breakdown:

- Collegiality and Collaboration (Individual grade): 20 points
- Process, preparation, and use of resources (including citation, captioning, etc.): 20 points
- Clear Messaging and Argumentation across media: 20 points
- Attention to Audience (use of appeals, evidence, etc): 20 points
- Ability to counter argue and engage in Q&A: 20 points

Notice that this grade does NOT depend on your “winning” the debate or having the flashiest ad. Instead, I’m looking for groups that can use their resources effectively, collaborate thoughtfully, and build on the skills they learned through the video essay process. Finally, remember that the Reflection Log you started with the video essay carries through here; for the full 25 points in that category, you’ll need to update after the ad and the debate.

### Schedule

M 2/10	Watch Videos and Coalition Build	TBD (Coalitions)
W 2/12	Intro to Group Work and Delegation	TBD (Coalitions)
F 2/14	Political Ad Reminders and Debate Info (why is the UN hearing this case?)	Create your ad script or mock-up
M 2/17	In class Workshop for ads	Complete political ads

W 2/19	Viewing of Advertisements (Building Counterarguments)	Update Reflection Log (approx. 250 words)
F 2/21	Final Debate Prep	TBD (Coalitions)
M 2/24	Debate!	Complete your reflection log (approx. 250 words)

*Committee:* General Assembly

*Topic:* State of separation of Ul Coma and Bezel

## Resolution 1.1

Sponsors: UTAs

Signatories: Katie M. Logan

The UN General Assembly,

*Recognizing* the UN Charter

*Deeply concerned by* the unyielding and unchecked power of Breach

*Taking into account* the different cultures and customs that separate the two cities

*Seeking* a solution in the best interest of the public

1. *Agrees* that the two cities should remain under separate jurisdiction
2. *Emphasises* the importance of field work between both cities through the Archaeologists and Unficationists
  - a. *Recommends* furthering legislatures to ease so that both parties can work together
    - i. This change would be seen through a preferable change in protocol to breach
3. *Strongly condemns* the unchecked balance of Breach
  - a. *Authorizes* a change in protocol and legislature in order to restructure Breach to be a more liable and accountable part of the judicial system

