

Background Guide



The Hunger Games

Topic A: Competing in the Annual Hunger Games

Topic B: Preventing the Capitol from Running Future Hunger Games

Chair: Alana Dillon & Samantha Cowen

TAEMUN IX

December 8-9, 2023

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Hello Delegates,

My name is Alana Dillon, and I'm pleased to be one of your Co-Chairs for the Hunger Games Committee for this year's TAEMUN. I am currently a senior at Thomas A. Edison High School and have been in Model UN for two years. Outside of Model UN, I'm very involved with Girls Who Code, participated in Kode With Klossy, am a Fairfax Global Youth Leader, and advocate for human-centered AI through lobbying! I'm half-Eritrean, half-Irish, and in my free time, I like to review movies, listen to music, and find silly new facts to surprise my friends. In the future, I hope to study data science and marine biology to help develop computer programs aimed at conservation. I am incredibly excited to participate in TAEMUN this year, and I can't wait to see your bright ideas and innovative solutions to new challenges. Don't hesitate to reach out if you have any questions!

Warm regards,

Alana M. Dillon

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Hi Delegates,

My name is Sam Cowen and I've been in Model UN for 3 years. I love art and STEM, which is at the core of all my activities; 4-H Agricultural engineering club, Piano, Art contribution, and volunteering with "Friends of Dyke Marsh", which conducts monthly river clean-ups along the Potomac. As I've observed environmental issues in my community, I've become more passionate about environmentalism, which I plan to study through the lens of Architecture and sustainable-systems engineering. Last year, I joined the Smithsonian Science Education Center's "sustainable communities" action research project, and presented my work at the Nobel Conference in D.C. I am also a year-round athlete, playing varsity and club soccer, track, and cross country. In my free time (what free time?!) I enjoy reading, cooking, and listening to music. Please reach out with any questions!

Sam Cowen

Important Committee Note

This committee differs from the original version of *The Hunger Games* by replacing all of the characters with fictional counterparts. However, it's crucial to note that all characters align with the fundamental elements of *The Hunger Games*. Delegates are encouraged to use the resources provided by their assigned districts. This committee focuses solely on Book 1: *The Hunger Games*. It's imperative for delegates to carefully review the background guide and dossier to understand the extent of this change.

Committee Background

This committee is based on the book and movie series *The Hunger Games*. *The Hunger Games* is a dystopian series written by Suzanne Collins. The series is set in a dystopian society known as Panem, situated in the ruins of a post-apocalyptic North America. It is narrated from the perspective of Katniss Everdeen, a young woman from District 12, one of the twelve outlying districts surrounding the Capitol, the society's governing body. Each district specializes in producing a specific resource, which is utilized to provide sustenance, clothing, and entertainment to the Capitol's citizens. Despite the luxurious lifestyle of the Capitol's inhabitants, the outlying districts face immense poverty and oppression, leading to widespread unrest and rebellion.

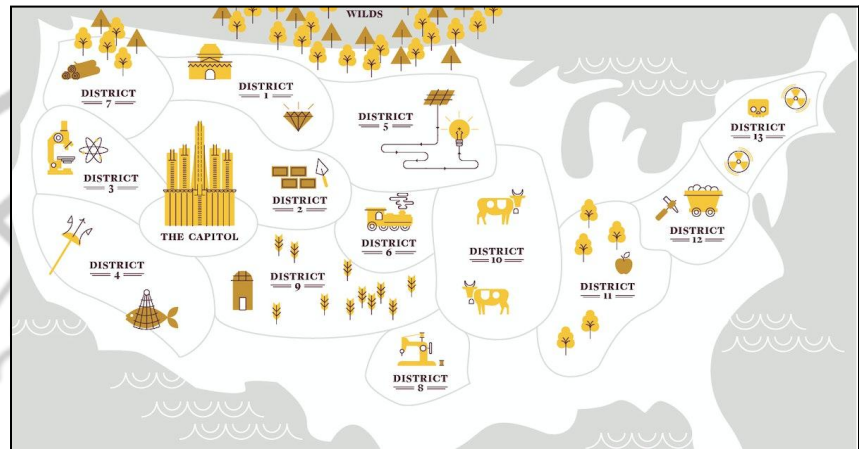
District 1 is widely recognized for producing high-end luxury goods, which are highly sought after throughout the Panem nation. This district is home to some of the wealthiest citizens in the land, who specialize in crafting exquisite items such as jewelry and other luxury products used to decorate the Capitol. Despite their good standing with the Capitol, District 1 is still required to participate in the Hunger Games. Nevertheless, the Tributes from District 1 enjoy a

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distinct advantage in that they are permitted to train without facing any consequences for their actions. District 2 is renowned for its production of masonry and weaponry, and it is home to the largest community in Panem. The citizens of District 2 are well-off and enjoy a close relationship with the Capitol. District 3 is known for producing electronics, including televisions and

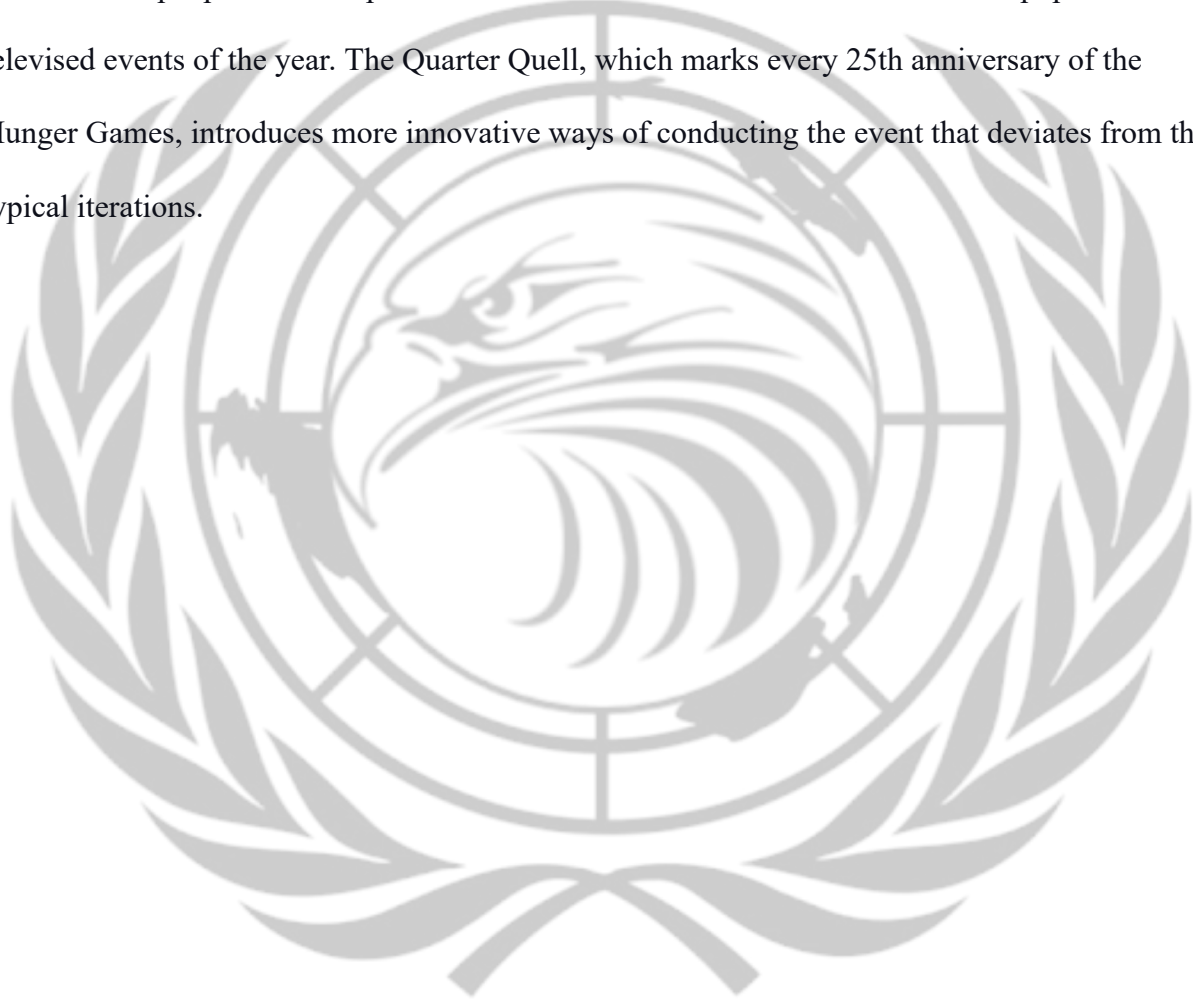
computers, among other items. District 4 is famous for its fishing industry and is favored by the Capitol. Its citizens are known for their wealth and good looks.



District 5 is responsible for producing power and electricity used to power all of Panem. District 6's primary resource is transportation, and it serves as a hub for the transportation network throughout the nation. District 7 is responsible for producing lumber and is home to vast forests and greenery. Its citizens are renowned for their skill with axes, which they use to provide paper and lumber to the Capitol. District 8 is well-known for its textile production. District 9 is known for its grain production, although little is known beyond that. District 10 is responsible for raising animals and is renowned for its livestock industry, which supplies meat to the Capitol. District 11 is home to vast lands dedicated to orchards, crop fields, and more. It is well-known for its agricultural production but is also the second-poorest district in Panem. Finally, District 12 is known for its coal mining and is Panem's smallest and poorest district.

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The annual Hunger Games involve the selection of two tributes from each district, a boy and a girl, to compete in an arena in the Capitol. During the Games, the tributes must fight to the death until only one child remains. Participants in the Hunger Games are children between the ages of 12 and 18 who are exempt from future participation after winning. The Games are broadcast for people in the Capitol and districts to watch and are one of the most popular televised events of the year. The Quarter Quell, which marks every 25th anniversary of the Hunger Games, introduces more innovative ways of conducting the event that deviates from the typical iterations.



Topic A: Competing in the Annual Hunger Games

Background:

Throughout the years, the Hunger Games has been a highly prosperous and immensely popular event in Panem. The event's popularity predominantly stems from the wealthy districts, although all must participate in the excitement. The Hunger Games is a survival challenge in which tributes from Districts 1-4 typically emerge victorious. However, throughout history, there have been anomalies to this common rule. The tributes spread through the arena, strategically executing actions to stay alive. Over the years, unexpected victories have occurred, with no single method to success. Betrayals and acts of violence often mark the events. However, the question remains: Can the tributes put aside their differences to collaborate and work together?

Current Situation:

The tributes for the Hunger Games have been chosen. They've been to the Capitol and gone through every pre-Games ritual. They are about to step foot into the Arena. Many think about life back home, life before they were chosen, but some only think about the win. Strategies are being created, teammates are spotted, and the anticipation builds rapidly as the timer counts down.

Questions to Consider:

1. What abilities does your position have that can give you an upper hand?
2. Who can you trust to help you throughout the Games?
3. How can you work to prevent anyone from betraying you?
4. What will your strategy be going into the Games?
5. How will you create strategies in order to gain a following?

Topic B: Preventing the Capitol from Running Future Hunger Games

Background:

The Hunger Games have recently gained much public attention due to the controversy surrounding them. Many in the Districts view the Hunger Games as immoral. Many are questioning the ethics of killing so many people for entertainment and are starting to fight for change. Over the 100 years of the Hunger Games, more than 2000 kids have been killed, and the Capitol is showing no signs of slowing down. However, many in Panem would like for them to cease. Unfortunately, protests and boycotts have little effect, so a new approach is needed to enact profound change.

Current Situation:

There has been a growing wave of protests across the various Districts of Panem, particularly those less financially well-off. A group of notable individuals has recently emerged to discuss the future of the Hunger Games. Most of these individuals have already participated in the Games and have differing opinions regarding how the Games should evolve. However, they all share a common goal: ending the Hunger Games. The group plans to debate at a remote location in District 12, where they are less likely to be discovered. As the 4th Quarter Quell draws near, the group is concerned about finding a viable solution before the tributes are taken to the Capitol.

Questions to Consider:

1. How can you work with your fellow delegates to successfully convince the Capitol that the Games should no longer be run?
2. What can your position bring to the table to combat the Capitol?

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3. How will the Capitol respond to your efforts, and will you need to implement protection for yourselves against them?
4. How will you prevent conflicts amongst yourselves, possibly due to different beliefs or ideas?
5. How can you prevent any of your secrets getting exposed by a member of the committee?

