



Preparing for MAL ACJ

A walkthrough of Model Arab Court of Justice



Introduction: A Note From the Author

- This guide has been made to define what steps you should take when preparing for the ACJ. Everything in this document is more in-depth in the [guide](#), so if a step here confuses you, please consult the guide or shoot your chair an email. Additionally, if you have done ACJ before, please follow the order of steps that work for you.

Steps to Prepare

1. Know your case!

- a. Once your chair assigns you a case, consult the docket, and read the recommended articles. From there, more research will need to be done. One strategy that works is to search the situation online for basic background, before delving into research on international law. There are a lot of helpful websites for legal research on the [ACJ page of the NCUSAR website](#).
- b. *Step 1.5:* If you have a partner, please make sure to work with them together on all these steps. I know some delegates like to split up the work, but make sure both of you know everything about every part of the memorial. You don't want to get stuck in a situation where you both think the other knows the answer and falter during the debate. Also, work together. There's no I in team.

2. Know your deadlines!

- a. Before gathering research, you should know how much time you have to do it. These deadlines are crucial, as regardless of which side of the case you represent, it is extremely helpful for both sides to see the completed memorials and evidence binders of the other side before debate in order to inspire productive and knowledgeable debate.

3. Gather your evidence!

- a. Before you start writing your memorial, look at some articles. The more credible the better, but some cases require you to pull from less reliable sources. Be careful, as unreliable sources can become a point of attack for the other side (alternatively, if you see your opposing delegate is using unreliable sources for a piece of information call it out in cross-examination and closing!). Make sure to

only use sources that completely line up with your side of the facts, because if you cite a source that disagrees with your argument, it could be used against you.

- b. Make sure to keep all the evidence you look at together in order to make your evidence binder. The evidence binder should be a physical binder or PDFs of every article, document, or other paper you use to build your argument. Any facts you use in your memorial or any of your debate should be cited in your evidence binder!
- 4. Write your memorial!**
 - a. Regardless of which side of the case you're representing, The one thing I would do is start the 'statement on relevant law' section, as that is what you will be basing your argument around. If you're writing a counter-memorial, it is true that you have to wait for the memorial to complete your counter fully, but you can definitely work on describing the viewpoint of the situation and the case.
 - 5. Review and submit your materials!**
 - 6. Review the other side!**
 - a. Finally, once you and your opponent have submitted all materials, you will be able to review the other side's case and evidence binder. ACJ is not only about convincing the justices that your argument is the correct one, you also have to convince them that your opponents' argument is the wrong one.
 - 7. Formulate your argument!**
 - a. Pre-writing is strictly forbidden in any of the other councils, but, in ACJ, a written argument is allowed, and in most cases helpful. A lot of delegates read straight from their memorials, but writing out an opening speech or specific points you want to make sure to hit is extremely helpful in making sure your presentation goes as smoothly as possible.
 - 8. Finally, make sure you're ready for debate!**
 - a. Gather your things, it's time to take a trip! Make sure you have your evidence binder and memorial (either digitally, on paper, or both), something to take notes with, and yourself, and be ready to listen closely to the argument of all ACJ delegates. Make sure you know all the cases on a surface level, so you can understand what is being argued, and treat other cases with the respect you hope yours is treated with. Make sure to listen diligently and ask insightful questions.

During the Conference

- When your case is being argued, pay close attention to the other side's argument. Part of the fun in poking holes in the opposition's case while it's being presented, and using your opponent's words against them can go a long way in helping to sway the justices in your

favor. Make sure to be respectful, you are trying to tear apart your opponent's case, not them as a person and their character.

- Outside of your case, you are a justice, listening, and then creating an opinion of the court on the case. Inside your case, the order, which is helpfully outlined by [this video](#), and is outlined in much more detail with an example presentation in [this video](#), will proceed like this:

Memorial

Presentation: 20 mins

Cross-Examination: 10 mins

Justice Questions: 20 mins

The memorial team gets 20 minutes to present. Then, the advocates who worked on the counter-memorial get to cross-examine the memorial by asking questions to the memorial advocates for 10 minutes. Finally, the justices get 20 minutes to ask questions to the memorial team.

Counter-Memorial

Presentation: 20 mins

Cross-Examination: 10 mins

Justice Questions: 20 mins

The counter-memorial team gets 20 minutes to present. Then, the advocates who worked on the memorial get to cross-examine the counter-memorial by asking questions to the counter-memorial advocates for 10 minutes. Finally, the justices get 20 minutes to ask questions to the counter-memorial team.

Closing Statements:

Memorial: 5 minutes

Counter-memorial: 5 minutes

The advocates from each team then have 5 minutes to close their arguments with one 5 minute statement each.

Deliberations

The advocates on the case leave the room and get to relax while the justices deliberate on the case, forming a judgment ruling in favor of one case or the other, and addressing the demands of the winning side. If any justices disagree with the majority of justices, they may write a dissenting opinion.