

2020 Executive Response Committee Manual



YMCA New Jersey Youth and Government

A Program of the Greater Philadelphia YMCA

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Welcome to the YMCA Youth and Government Executive Response Committee (ERC). This manual will assist delegates in understanding the procedures and practices in this specialized committee.

-----Overview of the Executive Response Committee (ERC)-----

The Executive Response Committee (ERC) is a specialized committee that allows delegates to collaboratively respond to possible crises in New Jersey. Delegates will work in small groups to develop multi-step proposals for action in response to the given crises through the exploration of different subtopics and the integration of media. Following that, they will debate as a committee, and both blend and amend these proposals into a single plan organized by priority. Media, press, lobbyists, and legislative delegates will also be involved in the development and debate of these plans, which will ultimately be presented in part or in whole to the governor and the cabinet. As a result, delegates will help ensure that the state is in a position to face any potential emergency situations.

Debate in the ERC is fast-paced and takes place over a short span of time, first divided into group work in five groups of about six delegates, then moving to formalized debate of the plans following loose parliamentary procedure. Because of this, delegates of the committee should be able to speak in a rapid-fire situation and communicate easily with fellow delegates. Anyone can join the ERC, but delegates who can think quickly, work collaboratively, and look at the big picture will be particularly well-suited to the committee.

--- Delegate Role in the Executive Response Committee (ERC) ---

Delegates in the ERC must complete their sub-topic exploration prior to conference, and are randomly assigned to small groups for the first “round” of proposal drafting. During conference, delegates are expected to contribute productively both in the initial groups and in the committee-wide debates. Following the first crisis, delegates will be reassigned to new groups for the second crisis. Delegate participation is crucial for smooth-sailing committee session, and drives conference for the entirety of the weekend. Delegates must also turn in paperwork outlined below.

-----Paperwork and Deadlines-----

Despite the fast-paced and debate-centric nature of the ERC, some paperwork is necessary to ensure that delegates are prepared for discussion of the crises and can communicate ideas effectively. Paperwork requirements and deadlines are as follows.

For Pre-Legislative Session: Each delegate must develop three possible subtopics for each crisis, explaining reasoning for each choice of subtopic and additionally exploring the crisis. The subtopics should represent what the delegate feels are the top three most important issues to be addressed. An example of a sample topic write-up can be found at the bottom of this document.

-----Logistics and General Procedures of the ERC-----

The Executive Response Committee has a unique nature at conference both in its structure and in its procedures. As such, the following is an outline both of the timeline for the committee and for the debate procedures within each stage. Delegates should pay careful attention to the changes in debate protocol as the conference progresses.

Pre-Legislative Session: The purpose of the pre-legislative session is to discuss the “subtopics” prepared by delegates in their topic write-up and the details of the long-term crisis in general. The forum for discussion in the pre-legislative session will be announced once the delegates have arrived, but its purpose will be to offer delegates the opportunity to delve deeply into the crisis. Delegates **must** arrive with their completed topic write-up.

Conference Weekend: The rough procedure of the ERC follows the cycle explained below, to be repeated with each of the two topics. The following outlines the procedure for debate in the ERC. However, this debate is, of course, prefaced by a period in which delegates will work in their groups to create their plans, interspersed with breakout sessions of varying nature (typically 30 minutes - 1 hour).

Procedure in the first round of presentations will follow loose parliamentary procedure and will run along the lines of a round table session:

1. Presentation (8 minutes)
 - Delegates must introduce themselves using parliamentary procedure
2. Speakers List (5 minutes)
 - Delegates are highly encouraged to yield time to one another as there is no set limit on time usage per delegate.
 - As many delegates as possible can speak within this allotted speaking time
3. Author’s Summation (2 minutes)

- Each delegate in the group must still state Name/Delegation/and recognize the Chair before the summation begins.
- 4. Repeat procedure for every group's initial presentation of their plan.

After discussion of each individual plan, procedure for the discussion of all the plans will essentially be a simple speaker's list. During this time, delegates can express their support and/or criticism of particular plans discussed. After a number of delegates have spoken, an initial vote will occur, and the bottom three plans will be eliminated. After that, another speaker's list will be open, and after delegates have spoken, delegates will once again vote, thereby selecting the final plan. In the event of a tie, delegates will re-vote between the tying top proposals, or a third party will be called in to voice the tie-breaking vote.

Procedure in amending the final plan will be as follows:

1. Group presentation (2 minutes)
2. Non-debatable technical questions (2 minutes)
3. Speaker's list/amendment list (5 speakers per list)
 - Delegates are highly encouraged to write amendments during this time, in order to create the best possible final plan.
 - Amendment procedure follows normal guidelines

-----Long-term and Short-term Crises-----

Over the course of conference, ERC will debate plans of action for two crises. One will be a short-term crisis, which delegates will receive on the Saturday of conference, and the other will be a long-term crisis, which delegates should thoroughly research before Pre-leg.

----- Executive Response Committee Proposal Format-----

The following outline is the format in which groups should write their plans, to best ensure that different plans can easily be combined. The final plan will also be in this format. Before Pre Leg each delegate should have two Subtopic Explorations. Each paper should have one subtopic (examples of subtopics for education outlined above) and three possible responses

COMMITTEE PAPER OUTLINE:

- I. Subtopic title.
 - A. Idea to combat subtopic issue.
 1. Specific details
 - B. Idea to combat subtopic.
 1. Specific details
- II. Subtopic title.
 - A. Idea to combat subtopic issue.
 1. Specific details
 - B. Idea to combat subtopic.
 1. Specific details

(Repeat as needed)

----- Example Pre-Legislative Assignment-----

The following is an example of the paper delegates will prepare for pre-leg. More information about this document will be given to delegates who are participating in the ERC.

Subtopic Exploration Sheet Example Crisis: Sustainable Energy and Community Infrastructure

Topic - NJ Toll Prices

In regards to the general idea of sustainable energy and development, there are a vast number of issues within New Jersey's society which currently lack the proper funding to tackle. Among these issues include sustainable housing, environmental preservation, and others; however, an increase in toll prices in New Jersey displays its validity as a simple way to handle these issues. Currently, toll prices in New Jersey are around 15 dollars, with small variations depending on the time of day and where exactly one would be travelling. Whether it be for work or vacation, everyday, thousands of people pass through these tolls with little thought as to how much they are paying. In fact, a company called E-Z Pass, has made the process of paying toll prices so easy that one could simply drive straight through a turnpike where they would have some form of E-Z Pass identification on the windshield of their car. This process would take no more than a couple of seconds, which highlights how a proposal geared towards increasing toll prices would have incredible benefits for the state. An increase in toll prices, for example, by just 25 cents, could provide the state with funding for certain projects related to sustainable energy and development. Regardless of whether a driver has an E-Z Pass or not, a 25 cent increase is extremely convenient for the driver to accommodate for (just a quarter more), which makes it easy to pay the extra fine in any situation without much concern.

<https://www.app.com/story/news/traffic/commuting/2015/12/03/port-authority-toll-hikes/76721602/>

<https://www.ezpassva.com/staticpages/faq.aspx>

<https://minimum-wage.procon.org/>

Topic - Carbon Emissions

Examining one of the most prominent issues in the world, let alone New Jersey, global warming will prove to have disastrous effects on the world's environment unless serious change is made. Some of the effects of global warming include rising sea levels, the migration of regional animals, and an increase in population of certain parasites. To bring some alleviation to the issue of global warming, one of the first problems which can be approached, which is directly tied to global warming, is an excess in carbon emissions. Carbon emissions warm the Earth because it acts as one of the most prevalent greenhouse gases in the planet's atmosphere. As a greenhouse gas, carbon emissions cause plants to provide less evaporative cooling and allow sunlight to easily pass into Earth without escape, both of which contribute to Earth's rising temperatures. Moreover, as a means for slowing down global warming, it is necessary to significantly reduce emissions of carbon into the atmosphere, which would be most efficiently done through the limiting of carbon emissions in factories. It is important to note that the majority of carbon emissions comes from private companies and production in factories, which is why a proposal centered around the idea of restricting the allowed amount of carbon emitted by these companies is desirable. Taking it a step further, a proposal like this could also include benefits for companies who reduce carbon emissions the most.

<https://www.nationalgeographic.com/environment/global-warming/global-warming-effects/>

<https://svs.gsfc.nasa.gov/20114>

<https://www.wri.org/blog/2015/07/4-reasons-why-us-can-and-should-reduce-its-emissions-now>

Topic - Solar Panels

In a world where natural energy sources are depleting and where more and more people are unable to afford traditional energy sources, it is imperative that society finds an alternative, sustainable form of energy which can be used for generations to come. In order to promote sustainable energy and the abstaining of an ever-depleting energy source, the widespread use of solar panels displays its promise as an alternative energy source to the society of New Jersey. For one, the energy which comes from solar panels comes from the sun's solar rays. The sun is an unlimited, bottomless source of energy, which displays the potential of solar panels to provide people with energy for generations to come, contingent that people do use them. In addition to this, solar panels have been proven to save residents in New York \$23,670.01 after 25 years of installation. While this number can change, depending on the presence of sunlight in a state, New Jersey residents could save just as much, if not more than the aforementioned value. In order to capitalize on the many benefits of solar panels, a proposal which calls for the widespread installation of solar panels would be necessary. Firstly, solar power would need to be maximized in cities. Large cities have large buildings which can house several solar panels, and these buildings, whether they are owned by the government or by private companies, would be required to at least partially rely on solar panels as a means for providing energy to the building. In addition to this, the general public's use of solar panels is also important. Solar panels are proven to provide more than 98% of the people with the energy they need, and to incentivize the use for these solar panels even more, a proposal which provides extensive tax reductions for those who use solar panels could be implemented.

<https://news.energysage.com/congress-extends-the-solar-tax-credit/>

<https://www.solarreviews.com/blog/what-is-the-average-solar-savings-in-2018-for-a-residential-solar-installation-in-the-us>

<https://news.energysage.com/much-solar-panels-save/>