

Preparaing for the Model United Nations Fall Conference

Yesterday evening, delegates representing countries from all around the globe came together at McKendree University for the Fall 2012 Model United Nations Conference. Many had done their research between last night's conference and this morning's. They strived for excellence in their resolutions and in their research. Everyone wanted to look wise before their colleagues. When asked what they would do if they were speaking for a country in the United Nations, the clash between the delegates' American bias

and their country's beliefs persisted. The delegate from China would have liked to discuss women's access to healthcare, but her country's beliefs conflicted with her own.

Several delegates had practiced for this event for many hours, and the confidence in their voices reflected those hours.

Other delegates, however, were not nearly as ready. Some tried and fell short, while others just sat. The delegate from Canada said, "The best way to learn for an event like Model UN was to just be thrown into it, like learning a language.

It's best to just be around it." Other delegates would have appreciated a greater emphasis on research to prepare for the conference.

Other delegates, like those from Saudi Arabia, Guatemala, and South Africa, had prepared well and knew their country's perspectives on nearly everything. They would not yield when their ideas were contested.

Opinions changed when the delegate from South Africa introduced a chilling story: a few years ago, a starving two-year-old boy was killed by a truck because he was caught stealing a piece of bread from the market because he was starving to death. This

changed the way every delegate regarded the issues proposed in committee.

This morning's conference was back and forth, but we look forward to updating you on other issues that occur in the Third Social Committee.

By: Third Social Respondent