

## **VAMUN JCD SPECIALIZED: INTERNATIONAL CRIMINAL COURT BRIEF-WRITING MANUAL**

As part of your preparation to present your case, you are asked to prepare a brief document laying out the major arguments you will make. These will be due at the beginning of the first committee session **in hard copy** and will be available for viewing by other teams, so that teams who are debating each other can preview the major arguments their opposition will make and prepare a rebuttal to the best of their availability. This document should be 3-4 pages, double spaced. You are only required to submit **one brief per team**, meaning you should split up the work evenly with your partner. Briefs take the place of a traditional position paper for this committee. Briefs should contain the following components:

- I. **Statement of Facts** – In this section of your brief, you should summarize the additional research you have conducted beyond the indisputable facts presented to you in the background guide. You should be presenting *stylized facts* here, meaning that although this will be a summary of your research, you should primarily present facts which help support your arguments and present them such that they present your side of the case. In other words, focus on the facts and sources that make your assigned party look the most guilty/innocent based on your assigned side of the case.
- II. **Argument for each crime charged** – This section should be subdivided into mini sections for each count your assigned party has been charged with in the background guide. For each crime charged, summarize your arguments as to why they are guilty/not guilty on that specific charge. *It is very important that you ground your arguments in the Rome Statute.* The Rome Statute is the ICC's governing document. It is visible online and linked on the committee website, and contains a variety of articles which explain what standards must be met in order for the ICC to find a particular party guilty. For example, if you wish to argue that your party is not guilty because they were acting under direct official orders, you should find the relevant article of the Rome Statute to support that. In particular, you are encouraged to focus on Articles 9 and 22-33 of the Rome Statute. Crimes charged can be found in articles 6-8.
- III. **Conclusion** – As the name would imply, summarize your most important facts and strongest arguments here. In a few concise sentences, why should your fellow ICC justices (delegates) find your assigned party guilty or not guilty? Why is your evidence and argumentation stronger than that of your opposition? What have you proven beyond any reasonable doubt, or what has your opposition failed to prove? Summarize the answers to these questions in your conclusion, such that someone who only reads the conclusion section of your brief could have a basic understanding of your major points and arguments.