



Tips for First-Time SEMAU Advisors

Here's a helpful and practical list of tips for first-time faculty or staff advisors attending the Southeastern Model African Union (SEMAU) Conference with student delegates.

1. **Familiarize Yourself with the African Union and SEMAU:** Understanding the structure, purpose, and procedures of the AU and the SEMAU simulation will help you better support your students.
2. **Review the Delegate Preparation Materials:** Go over the resolution guidelines, committee topics, and procedural rules so you can guide students effectively.
3. **Encourage Early Research and Practice:** Help students start research early and hold mock sessions or practice debates to build confidence.
4. **Set Clear Expectations:** Discuss professionalism, punctuality, participation, and behavior during the conference with your delegation.
5. **Support Without Micromanaging:** Let students lead and make decisions—SEMAU is a student-centered experience. Be a guide, not a director.
6. **Foster Team Cohesion:** Encourage collaboration and communication among delegates, especially if they represent the same country in different committees.
7. **Be Prepared for Long Days:** Bring snacks, stay hydrated, and pace yourself. Days can be full but rewarding.
8. **Network with Other Advisors:** SEMAU is also a great opportunity to connect with colleagues and share teaching strategies and ideas.
9. **Stay Flexible and Positive:** Simulations can have last-minute changes. Adaptability and encouragement go a long way.
10. **Celebrate Student Growth:** No matter the outcome, highlight the skills your students develop—research, public speaking, diplomacy, and critical thinking.