**Birla School Pilani Model United Nations**



**Background Guide**

HARRY POTTER (FANTASY COMMITTEE)

WELCOME TO THE WIZARDING WORLD

# Letters from the Chair

# Dear Delegates,

My name is Ujjwal Singh, and I am honoured to be co-chair this committee. I can’t wait to see where this story will go!

I’m a class 12th grader with a non-medical stream. I am into these debates from past four years This will be my 3rd semester as a part of BSPMUN, and the second Model UN conference that I am staffing, and of course twelfth MUN conference as particular. And of course, I, too, am a big Harry Potter nerd, hence this committee.

I hope that you all enjoy this glimpse into what wizarding life may have been like, despite the fact that we will never know because we are muggles (at least I assume we all are…). Above all, have fun, stay true to your character, and don’t be afraid to cause trouble.

Best,

Ujjwal SIngh

# About This Committee

Although the Harry Potter universe is vast and extensive, we chose to focus on every event. As you read the background guide, I hope that you all take notice that this committee will become what you make of it, there are many many possible directions to take. The end goal of each of your decisions, however, should be to wipe out the one who calls himself Voldemort (Tom Riddle) and his threatening gang of followers. How this is achieved is decided by you, yet we encourage you to recognize the importance of defending wizards and muggles alike and not simply focus on the offensive aspects of the war.

Magic will play a large role in this committee, and therefore we would like to explain in slightly more detail how exactly it will work in terms of both personal powers and fighting.

For large-scale acts such as the building of a defensive charm over an area of land, spells and intent will be sent to crisis in the form of notes. We will promptly review your request and weigh its realistic occurrence; we will respond with whether it is successful or not. As the Order is more in place as the leaders of the wizarding army against the dark forces, most fights will not have Order members participating in them, however occasionally the need will arise for a duel to take place. In this case, a crisis can also decide on the outcome. We will further discuss magic later on in this guide and a prior information this is the committee which will have it’s own agenda proposed by you all, So prepare for the same.

ALL THE BEST.

# Background

## **Who is Voldemort?**

 The one now known as Voldemort is actually a former Hogwarts student named Tom Marvolo

Riddle. Born a half-blood in 1926, Tom spent his life pre-Hogwarts in Wool’s Orphanage in

London. His mother, Merope Gaunt, who died shortly after his birth, was a direct descendent of

Salazar Slytherin, one of the four founders of Hogwarts. Albus Dumbledore, at the time the Transfiguration professor at Hogwarts, visited Tom at age 11, and bore witness to his extraordinary abilities in magic, including moving objects across the room and inflicting pain on his fellow orphans. Tom was not surprised to find out from Dumbledore that he in fact had wizarding powers, and his abuse of his powers to manipulate and harm others worried Dumbledore.

From there Dumbledore sent Tom on his way to Hogwarts, on his way stopping to purchase a wand from Ollivander’s, 13 1/2 inches, yew, phoenix feather core. Riddle spent 7 years at Hogwarts, from 1938 to 1945, and was part of the Slytherin House. By account of every faculty member at Hogwarts, Tom was immensely charming and brilliant. Tom had many friends within his house, although more than friends they seemed drawn to the protection they could provide him as a smart and powerful wizard. In 1943 Tom received a trophy for Special Services to the school for his work in investigating the death of Myrtle Warren, finding fellow student Rubeus Hagrid guilty of accidentally releasing his Acromantula Aragog within the school.

Late in 1943, Tom’s father, Tom Riddle Sr., as well as his grandfather and grandmother, were killed at the family home. Morfin Gaunt, Tom’s maternal uncle, admitted guilt for the crimes and currently resides in Azkaban prison serving a life sentence.

During Tom’s seventh year, he was Head Boy and received a Medal of Magical Merit. By all accounts he was one of the most brilliant students to ever attend Hogwarts. Upon graduating, Tom asked to stay at Hogwarts in the position of Defense-against-the-dark-arts Professor, however his request was denied and he began traveling for some time, then returned and began work at Borgin and Burkes magic shop, to the surprise and disappointment of many, as he was offered several positions at the Ministry of Magic.

Tom then suddenly disappeared for 10 years, before showing up at Hogwarts to ask once again for the position of Professor of Defense against the Dark arts. After Dumbledore denied him this position, he simply left, and has only recently resurfaced with a gang of followers known as “death eaters” enacting violence against the wizarding and muggle communities alike. It must not be understated that there have been multiple accounts of him using the three unforgivable curses. Please be cautious.

***Who are the Death Eaters?***

The death eaters seem to be a group of radical pure blood supremacists, who practice the Dark arts with reckless abandon and without regard to the law. They wear masks and robes concealing themselves during their attacks, therefore as of yet few have been identified successfully. So far the only death eaters to have been identified are Bellatrix Lestrange, sister of Sirius Black, and Severus Snape, a classmate of many members of the Order--we implore you to use this to your advantage. Death Eaters seem to be concentrated in former members of Slytherin house, and there is intelligence suggesting that several Death Eaters have infiltrated the highest wizarding authority, the Ministry of Magic. Please be wary.

## **Other creatures**

It seems possible that Voldemort and his followers have recruited other creatures to their cause, such as werewolves, giants, and possibly goblins, although it is simply speculation that goblins have been recruited. Each of these creatures pose a great threat if it is found to be true that they have been recruited.

**Werewolves**: Not only can they be powerful witches and wizards while in their human form, but they also tend to lose any sense of allegiance once the transformation has taken place at the full moon. Whereas behavior of a human might be relatively predictable, upon transformation into a werewolf those stricken with lycanthropy will not hesitate to kill even their best friend, making these creatures extremely dangerous when used in an aggressive setting. Giants too pose their own risk.

**Giants:** As 25ft tall humanoids, Giants, of which there are about 100 different tribes across the world, can easily wreak havoc on the muggle world and wizarding world alike. Prone to a distaste for verbal conversation, Giants typically resort to violence relatively quickly, and therefore pose a threat that would need to be neutralized in order to avoid disaster. Goblins are quite different from these other two.

**Goblins:** Highly intelligent, goblins find their affiliation with Gringotts Wizarding bank, and have their own department in the ministry of magic. Extremely clever, goblins will likely side with those who can benefit them, or at least offer them safety and protection, no matter what methods they employ.

**Note On Magic and Spells:**

It is important to keep in mind, while magic can do many things, your enemy holds these powers as well, and magic cannot let you do everything. First and foremost, all wizards and witches must follow the International Statute of Wizarding secrecy, insuring that muggles do not find out about the existence and use of magic. Secondly, apparition is not to be employed by members of the Order, and in exchange it will not be used by members of Voldemort’s army. Unless legislation by the Ministry is passed saying otherwise, unforgivable curses are not to be used by Aurors or those with equal authority. Death eaters are not held by such legislation.

**Spells:**

# https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/List\_of\_spells\_in\_Harry\_Potter

The link above contains a list of spells and descriptions, and while the list is exhaustive, keep in mind your characters experience as a wizard and lawful abilities. During the committee you may inquire about a sort of “spell check” to crisis in order to determine if you have the ability to use a certain spell.

# Important Character Intros

## **Alastor Moody** (Wand characteristic unknown)

Pure-Blood Scottish wizard, born to a long line of Aurors under the employment of the

Ministry of Magic. Excelled greatly in his education at Hogwarts, earning at least five

NEWTs with Highest distinction. He currently serves as an Auror for the Ministry of Magic, trained to investigate crimes related to the Dark Arts, and apprehend dark witches and wizards.

## **Sirius Black** (Wand: 15 inches, Resin , Unknown core)

Harry Potter's godfather, a member of the Order of the Phoenix ,Pure-blood wizard, born as the heir of the House of Black. Sirius has always felt distanced from his family, who promoted the idea of blood purity, and was the only member of his family to be in the house of Gryffindor rather than Slytherin. Black recently graduated as a student at Hogwarts, where developed close friendships with fellow students Remus Lupin, James Potter, and Peter Pettigrew. Unregistered Animagus, Sirius can turn himself into a black dog.

**Peter Pettigrew** *(Wand: 9 1/4 inches, Chestnut, Dragon heartstring core)* Pure-Blood wizard, just finished his last years attending Hogwarts. Pettigrew has befriended James Potter, Remus Lupin, and Sirius Black, the four of whom call themselves the Maurauders. Whereas Pettigrew admires his fellow Griffindors for their talent and prestige, he would likely not partake in the bullying of Slytherin were it not for his friends. Loyalty to Griffindor and his friends is his most redeeming quality. Unregistered Animagus, Peter can turn himself into a large rat.

## **Remus Lupin** (Wand: 10 1/4 inches, Cypress, Unicorn hair core)

Half-blood wizard, born to Lyall and Hope Lupin. Due to some past issues with Lyall and Fenrir Greyback, Greyback cursed Remus with lycanthropy, which Remus does not yet fully comprehend. Together with Pettigrew, James Potter, and Sirius Black, Remus and his friends created a map to navigate Hogwarts.

## **Rubeus Hagrid** (Wand: 16 inches, Oak wood, Unknown core)

Half-giant Wizard. Attended Hogwarts as a student, but after being accused of releasing

Aragog onto the school, his wand was snapped and he was expelled. At the request of Albus Dumbledore however, he was kept on as the gameskeeper of the school. As gameskeeper Hagrid has great access to both many tools as well as several creatures such as Aragog, his dog Fang, Three Headed dog Fluffy, Norwegian Ridgeback Dragon Norberta, Hippogriff Buckbeak, and a small herd of Thestrals.

## **Fabian Prewett** (Wand characteristic unknown)

Pure-blood wizard, brother of Gideon. Together with his brother, Fabian ensured that magic retained a lighter, more comical side, and strived to pull pranks and jokes on his colleagues regularly. Both him and his brother are knowledgeable on large amounts of spells and charms, as well as ingredients used in many potions.

## **Gideon Prewett** (Wand characteristic unknown)

Pure-blood wizard, brother of Fabian. Gideon was the brains behind all of Fabian’s stunts; while Fabian dreamed of insanely hilarious acts, Gideon hit the books hard to find the charms that could make such graciousness possible. Very knowledgeable on spells and charms, Gideon has a knack for learning quickly.

## **Mundungus Fletcher** (Wand: 10 inches, Unknown material, Unknown core)

Half-blood wizard known for being involved in many illegal activities. After receiving a Hogwarts education, Fletcher found work in the wizarding underworld. While this has led to tensions between him and most of the other order members, he is fiercely loyal to Albus Dumbledore, and can use his underworld connections as a valuable resource.

## **Elphias Doge**(Wand characteristic unknown)

Longtime friend and classmate of Albus Dumbledore. He has traveled all over the world for the past years, only returning at the death of Ariana Dumbledore. Over this time it is likely that he has developed many contacts and friends across the wizarding world, notably in Greece, Egypt, and other parts of Eastern Europe.

## **Aberforth Dumbledore** (Wand characteristic unknown)

Younger brother of Albus Dumbledore. His relationship with Albus is strained, as Aberforth blames Albus for the death of their sister Ariana, yet Aberforth is willing to take part as a member of the Order in order to take down Voldemort. He is currently the owner and Barman at the Hog’s Head Inn in Hogsmeade, a position that gives him an interesting ability to hear the happenings of Hogwarts through both students and faculty. Able to produce one of the larger patronuses, a Goat.

**Minerva McGonagall** *(Wand: 9 1/2 inches, fir, Dragon heartstring core)* The current professor of Transfiguration at Hogwarts. Born a half-blood, Minerva excelled greatly in her time at Hogwarts, advancing to positions as a prefect and Head girl. After scoring great marks on her OWL and NEWT exams, she began employment with the Ministry of Magic, before heading back to teach under Albus Dumbledore in the transfiguration department. Legal Animagus, her animal form being a small gray Tabby cat.

**Albus Dumbledore** Advisor to the Minister & Supreme Mugwump As the Headmaster of Hogwarts and head of the Order of the Phoenix, Albus Dumbledore has a lot of control over the youth. Known as the only wizard that Voldemort ever feared, Dumbledore possesses a great amount of power and a personal sense of responsibility for ensuring the safety of the Wizarding World. Lately, he advocates greatly for the acceptance of Muggleborns into the world of magic and is known to sympathize with magical creatures. Overall, he has many ties throughout the Ministry and is quite a respected figure.

**Draco Lucius Malfoy** He is a student in [Harry Potter](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_%28character%29)'s year belonging in the [Slytherin](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Slytherin) house. He is frequently accompanied by his two cronies, [Vincent Crabbe and Gregory Goyle](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Supporting_Harry_Potter_characters#Crabbe_and_Goyle), who act as [henchmen](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Henchman). Draco is characterised as a cowardly bully who manipulates and hurts people to get what he wants; nevertheless, he is a cunning user of magic.

**Harry James Potter** he attends [Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hogwarts) to practice magic under the guidance of the kindly headmaster [Albus Dumbledore](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Albus_Dumbledore) and other school professors along with his best friends [Ron Weasley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Weasley) and [Hermione Grange](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Hermione_Granger)r. Harry also discovers that he is already famous throughout [the novel's magical community](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Fictional_universe_of_Harry_Potter), and that his fate is tied with that of [Lord Voldemort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Lord_Voldemort), the internationally feared Dark Wizard and murderer of his parents, [Lily](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Phoenix_%28fictional_organisation%29#Lily_Potter) and [James](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Phoenix_%28fictional_organisation%29#James_Potter). The film and book series revolve around Harry's struggle to adapt to the wizarding world and defeat Voldemort.

**Dolores Jane Umbridge** He was the [Defence Against the Dark Arts](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Defence_Against_the_Dark_Arts) teacher, the Senior Undersecretary to the Minister of Magic, and the main antagonist in [*Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Order_of_the_Phoenix). She is a short, squat woman described as resembling a large pale toad, with "short, curly, mouse-brown hair". She speaks with a quiet, childish, high-pitched voice, and loves [kittens](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Kitten), [chocolate cakes](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Chocolate_cake), biscuits, tea and other cute things, decorating her office with related paraphernalia. She has a tendency to speak to people she feels are her lessers in a very condescending tone, as if they are simpletons or very young children. Besides [Voldemort](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Voldemort), she is the only other character in the series to leave a lasting scar on Harry Potter's body.

**Molly Weasley** She is the wife of Arthur Weasley and the matriarch of the Weasley family. She is the mother of seven children, including [Ron Weasley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Ron_Weasley), who becomes Harry Potter's best friend. Molly is born into the [pure-blood](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Pure-blood_%28Harry_Potter%29) Prewett family, being the sister of [Gideon and Fabian Prewett](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Order_of_the_Phoenix_%28fictional_organisation%29#Original). The character is first introduced in [*Harry Potter and the Philosopher's Stone*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Philosopher%27s_Stone), when she kindly tells Harry how to cross the barrier through to [Platform Nine and Three-Quarters](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Platform_Nine_and_Three-Quarters). In [*Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Chamber_of_Secrets), she is furious with Fred, George, and Ron after she discovers that they flew their parents' [enchanted car](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magical_objects_in_Harry_Potter#Arthur_Weasley's_Ford_Anglia) to rescue Harry from his aunt and uncle who had imprisoned him in his room. At the beginning of the school year, Molly sends Ron a [Howler](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Magical_objects_in_Harry_Potter#Howler), screaming at him in anger that he and Harry flew the family car again, this time to Hogwarts. In [*Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban*](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_and_the_Prisoner_of_Azkaban), the Weasleys win the *Daily Prophet* draw and use the gold on a trip to [Egypt](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Egypt) to visit Bill. They return to Britain and stay at the [Leaky Cauldron](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Places_in_Harry_Potter#The_Leaky_Cauldron) with Harry and Hermione. Harry overhears Mr and Mrs Weasley arguing one night about telling Harry the truth about the supposed connection between [Sirius Black](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Sirius_Black) and Harry; Arthur feels Harry should know the truth but Molly, feeling the truth would terrify him, assures him Harry will be perfectly safe at Hogwarts with Dumbledore's protection, and orders [Percy Weasley](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Percy_Weasley) to keep an eye on Harry at the school.

##  **George Weasley**  When you think about it, George Weasley is pretty much the Van Gogh of the Harry Potter universe. He's something of an artist in his chosen field (making mischief) and he has only one ear, after being hit by a stray curse in *Deathly Hallows: Part 1*. Admittedly, the comparison somewhat falls down after that, since George does rather well financially (with his shop, Weasleys’ Wizard Wheezes) rather than languishing in some French attic, and because Van Gogh was never great with Puking Pastilles. Ahem. Along with his twin, Fred, George provides the funny bone of the Weasley family and indeed the series, puncturing pomposity as needed and always handy with a gag. He's also a heck of a Quidditch player and a good enough wizard (outside the academic environment, at least) that he can even discomfit the unshakeable Dolores Umbridge.

## **-** **Neville Longbottom**

## **-Hermione Granger**

-**Ron Weasley**

**-Ginny Weasley**

**ETC…**

***SOME IMPORTANT MOVIES TO CONSIDER:***

* Harry Potter and the Philosopher's(Sorcerer) Stone
* Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets
* Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban
* Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire
* Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix
* Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince
* Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 1
* Harry Potter and the Deathly Hallows – Part 2
* Voldemort: Origins of the Heir
* Severus Snape and the Marauders
* The Day Muggles Found Out
* Dumbledore and Grindelwald: The Greater Good
* The Elder Thieves
* Witchcraft: A Harry Potter Fan Film
* Fantastic beasts and where to find them
* Fantastic Beasts: The Crimes of Grindelwald

**Things to Remember:**

* You can read Novels relating to this content.
* Please remember that you should stay in character the whole time and express what their opinion would be, not your personal opinion.

**LINKS:**

<https://www.pottermore.com/>

<https://www.harrypotterplatform934.com/>

<http://www.mugglenet.com/>

<http://www.the-leaky-cauldron.org/>

For any more information, feel free to contact me.

Best wishes and Regards,

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