



# SUITS

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Dear Delegates,

Hello Delegates, my name is Sonika Rao and I am one of your chairs for the Suits JCC. to HMUN. I am a junior at Herricks High School. Although this is my first year in MUN, I have already learned so much, and I recommend all of you to take the class at some point in high school. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to contact me at [sorao25@herricksk12.org](mailto:sorao25@herricksk12.org) We are very excited to have you!

Hi delegates! My name is Tanvi Grover and I'm a freshman at Herricks High school. My first year doing MUN has already been an amazing experience. Doing MUN is not just about debating but it's about learning how to work with different positions and challenging yourself. I'm thrilled to be your chair in this committee and can't wait to see what you all bring to the table. Feel free to contact me at [tagrovda27@herricksk12.org](mailto:tagrovda27@herricksk12.org)

In our simulation, we will participate in a crisis committee. This means that the decisions of the committees will affect each other. For our committee, you (the delegates) will need to know parliamentary procedure, how to write a crisis position paper and the goals of your characters. You will have the opportunity to practice parliamentary procedure prior to the conference, but we have listed some information on the other topics you will need to know below. The conference's general topic is the return of Daniel Hardman to Person Specter Litt.

**Goals of the Suits committee:**

- Navigating the perilous waters of corporate intrigue and legal warfare
- Confront Daniel Hardmans return and his bid for power
- Safeguard firm's future
- Cooperating with partners

Through strategic planning, decisive action, and effective collaboration, delegates have the opportunity to safeguard the firm's future and emerge victorious in the face of adversity.

## How to Use this Guide

Dear delegates,

This is the background guide for the Suits committee at HMUNC 2024. As your chairs, we have spent a lot of time writing and gathering research in order to create the best possible guide for you, in hopes that it will aid you in your research and debate. We hope that you take some time to read this, as it'll provide a helpful guideline to the topics you will be discussing in debate as well as the potential solutions you may propose. This background guide should serve as one of the many sources you should utilize in order to conduct your research in preparation for our conference!

This background guide is filled with important information and subtopics that you may use in debate, and it provides delegates with a holistic understanding of topics. In your position paper, you must include why your country thinks that these issues are important, how you have already tried to solve the problems and what possible solutions you may use to make the world a better place, and minimize the problem. This background guide will help you understand the basic ideas of the issues, and it is your job to be creative and figure out different solutions. As a delegate this guide should be used to learn and solidify knowledge about Suits and the dynamics between the characters. It will also bring into light what is required for attending this conference along with what time period and topics will be discussed. In order to aid you with your process of writing a position paper and finding solutions, we will have questions to consider at the end of every topic as well as descriptions of your position at the end of the background guide! We look forward to hearing the ideas you bring to the table! Good luck!

**Our committee email is: [suitscrisis2024@gmail.com](mailto:suitscrisis2024@gmail.com)**

We cannot wait to see you in committee!

Sincerely,

Sonika Rao and Tanvi Grover

# HMUN Guide for Crisis Committees

## (Delegates and Chairs)

### *What is a Crisis Committee?*

Crisis committees run very differently from tradition or regional committees, which make up the majority of MUN debate. Crisis committees give delegates the opportunity to test just how well they can respond quickly when plans go awry and how well they can push through an agenda, all the while participating in debate. Crisis committees are small and their topics change and evolve based on the actions of the committee.

### *Crisis Procedure and Elements*

There are a number of different actions a delegate in a crisis committee that are not open to delegates in traditional or regional committees. These actions allow for a much more dynamic and fast-paced flow of debate, and allow for more fluid communication not only between the delegates in a single committee, but also between the delegates in different committees and between delegates and the crisis team. Delegates in crisis committees can write notes not only to other delegates, but also to crisis staff. These actions require the delegate to remain on the top of their game and to be easily adaptable.

These are the actions allowed to crisis delegates:

- Communiques

Communiques are essentially messages from an entire committee to another country, organization, person, or group of people that work to facilitate dialogue and to develop debate.

Communiqués can include negotiations, threats, and requests for aid. It should be written out as a formal letter.

- Directives

Normally in committee, delegates would solve issues and questions to consider through the creation of working papers (which would then be voted on and made to resolutions). However, in crisis committees, delegates solve issues with directives, which essentially are “mini-resolutions.” Directives should be as specific as possible, due to the fact that vague directives can result in a number of problems. Directives will need to be approved by the committee.

Examples:

1. Arm 50% of missiles in silos within 100 miles of the United States Eastern seaboard
  - a. No fire unless fired upon

- Press Releases

Press releases can be submitted to chairs by the entire committee, a bloc of positions, or by individual delegates. They are addressed to the public and, if approved by crisis and the chairs, will be read aloud to the committee. Press releases can be used to sway public opinion, to release pertinent information, or to change the course of debate.

Example:

The United Nations Secretary General has just given a statement calling the current ongoing violence in South Sudan, the world's youngest nation, a ‘genocide’ and calls upon the government of the nation and rebel groups to seek a ceasefire.

- Portfolio Powers

Portfolio powers can get a little confusing. To put it simply, a portfolio power is an ability that is unique to one delegate; for example, the Secretary of the Treasury can direct funds which is something only he or she can do. Portfolio powers can be used when writing personal directives;

they **DO NOT** need to be approved by the rest of the committee. Personal directives simply go from you to the chairs, and you are the only person aware of your own personal directives. Portfolio powers and personal directives follow the same format as the aforementioned directives; the greater the detail, the better the result.

### **How to Write a Crisis Position Paper**

You will be required to write a 1-page position paper about the conflict in Ukraine. Throughout the paper, you will be writing from the first perspective (AKA use “I”). 3 paragraphs will make up this paper:

Paragraph 1: Give a description about your assigned position/character. Who is your character? Why is your character important? What does your character believe in?

Paragraph 2: Write about what your character has done for your specific committee. For Suits, what has the character you are representing done about the ongoing conflict? Write about what your character has done for your assigned organization and what your assigned organization has done in the firm. If there is a specific concern that your character has, write it in here. Include statistics and data as this will help strengthen your argument and make other delegates agree with you.

Paragraph 3: Write about what you will do in order to solve the conflict. Include possible policies, resolutions, and goals. Remember to represent your character and country/organization! Try your best to stay “in character”. It can both be a general solution and specific solutions for specific problems.

**Position Papers are due May 8th (May 6th if you are interested in receiving feedback) and must be e-mailed to: [suitscrisis2024@gmail.com](mailto:suitscrisis2024@gmail.com)**

### **How to Prepare as a Delegate**

Prior research is always the most important factor in preparing for debate, regardless if it is for a traditional, regional, or crisis committee. Go through the background guide and focus on information pertaining to the questions to consider. The guide examines relations between positions and committees and provides an initial introduction as well as basic information for delegates. It would also be wise to do a little of your own research as well as to look into the suggested sources and cited sources to obtain a better understanding of the issue. Next, focus on your position/character. Read the position blurb and continue your research with online sources. A good strategy is to research the position of other delegates in advance to see who you could possibly reach out to to form alliances with during the committee.

If you have any questions, feel free to contact the crisis team, the chairs, or to speak with Dr. Jacobs.

### **Special Notes For Chairs**

Crisis committees are not purely dependent on the chair of the committee; the delegates each hold an important part in shaping and constructing the debate. Chairs should try to control the speed of the debate. Chairs should communicate with crises in order to ensure that the speed of debate meshes with the rate at which crises are being released. Maintaining a proper flow of debate can include asking the crisis team to introduce a crisis to the committee that would redirect debate. Chairs should also make them understand the timeline. There should be a division of work for the chair in which one focuses primarily on maintaining oral debate by selecting speakers, whereas other chair(s) should focus on notes and actions being passed up to the chair, as well as communication with the crisis team.



## Overview

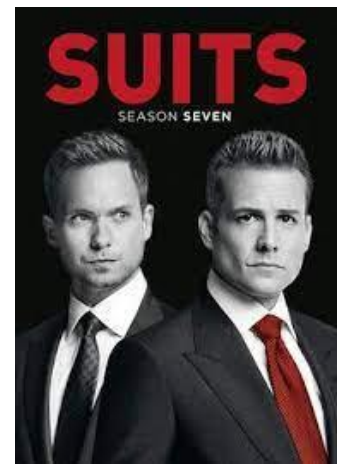
Created by Aaron Korsh, *Suits*, is an American series that explores the concept of legal drama. The show addresses the colleagues at the Pearson Hardman law firm who counsel clients and represent them through various legal cases. Pearson Hardman is a reputed firm and only hires Harvard Graduates, every employee at Pearson Hardman must be from Harvard hence that Harvard and Pearson Hardman hold a close relationship. Throughout its span of 9 seasons, the firm goes through numerous challenges including management changes, partnerships, name changes,



ruthless power plays, and personal vendettas. Harvey Specter decides to give Mike Ross a chance to rebuild his life despite the lack of a law degree, and Mike's photographic memory helps pull them through the facade. Later on Jessica Pearson finds out through Mike's vengeful ex-best friend but is not able to take action on this matter due to rising suspicion

and threat to her power from Daniel Hardman- her former managing partner. Louis Litt and eccentric but brilliant senior partner, also a Harvard graduate, has always been suspicious of Mike's education and has questioned him from time to time but is fooled into the facade by his colleagues. While visiting his girlfriend, Sheila Sazs who works at a top position at Harvard administration, Louis decides to mess around and jokingly go through student records and discovers

Mike's is not there however he is fooled by Donna, Harvey Specter's assistant. Later Louis' suspicion has not completely died down and decides to give Mike one final test- the golden Key which every Harvard graduate receives. Once realizes that Mike was unable to identify a golden key which every Harvard grad would know about he calls him on the facade. Upon spiraling out and feeling betrayed by his colleagues, he blackmails Jessica and Harvey into making him name partner, furthermore changing Pearson Specter to Pearson Specter Litt. Sheila Sazs, who is Head of



Harvard admissions and Louis Litt's romantic partner, receives an email from an article being written about Mike Ross' success as a Junior partner. She doesn't recognize his name so decides to look into his presence at Harvard and discovers he never went there therefore leaking this information to the original article publisher. Mike's secret is now out and the firm struggles to stay afloat as all their legal cases have now become illegal, they start to lose clients, their relationship with Harvard is broken off, and their relationship extremely tarnished. Pearson Specter Litt struggles to make a comeback as the once brilliant firm it was as well battling through Mike's Criminal trial.

### Crisis 1 Overview

Mike Ross, a college dropout with remarkable intelligence, secured a position at Pearson Hardman (later Pearson Specter) despite lacking a law degree. His fraudulent representation as a



Harvard Law graduate remained concealed until Sheila Szasz, who was head of Harvard Law Recruitment and Louis Litt's girlfriend, released the information about Mike Ross being a fraudulent lawyer. After evidence exposing Mike Ross's fraudulent credentials starts to come out, doubt is casted on the legitimacy of his legal practice and the reputation of Pearson Specter Litt. The revelation sends shockwaves through the legal community, triggering widespread scrutiny and

eroding trust in the firm. Within Pearson Specter Litt, internal issues unfold as partners and associates deal with the fallout of Mike's deception. Trust fractures, alliances crumble, and the firm faces an existential crisis as its very foundation is called into question. The exposure of Mike's fraudulent identity has huge legal consequences, including potential lawsuits from clients and challenges to the validity of past cases. Pearson Specter finds itself in a legal mess, navigating the complexities of defending its reputation while upholding the principles of justice. Beyond the professional realm, Mike Ross confronts personal demons as he reckons with the consequences of his actions. Betrayal, guilt, and existential angst plague him as he grapples with the prospect of losing everything he has worked for and facing the anger of those he deceived.

## Crisis 2 Context

After the return of Mike from prison, the firm's reputation is beyond disintegrated and lacks honor which causes the need for a merger to help the firm stand back up. In addition Jessica Pearson takes a leave from firm leaving Harvey Spector managing partner. This causes further tensions to mount, deals begin to break down, and economic hardship rapidly approaches. The internal squabbles between Harvey and Robert did more than tear the once-united team apart; They threatened the financial stability of both companies. Concerned about the instability, consumers begin to leave the companies, taking the capital with them. From this point on, merger and acquisitions decline sharply, government litigation declines and administrative costs begin to exceed revenue, creating a significant financial burden that neither Harvey nor Robert expected. Other firms, noticing the feuds, raise concerns about the ability of the firms to effectively pursue their interests, placing Harvey and Robert's corporations in a dangerous position. With no foreseeable solution to the feud, and mounting financial pressure, both groups find themselves teetering on the edge of bankruptcy. This looming presence of financial ruin forces Harvey and Robert to reconsider their positions; fighting each other could very well lead to mutual destruction. Members of a once-merged company are now wondering not only about the future of the company but also about the longevity of their jobs. A bankrupt company on their resume can cause current and future difficulties.



the



## **Overview of each season:**

Season 1: Mike Ross, a brilliant college dropout with a photographic memory, impresses Harvey Specter during an interview and is hired as an associate at Pearson Hardman. Throughout the season, Mike navigates the challenges of working in a high-stakes law firm while hiding the fact that he never attended law school. Meanwhile, Harvey mentors Mike while dealing with personal and professional challenges of his own. Specific events include Mike's first case involving a pro bono client, his initial encounters with rival Louis Litt, and his growing romantic interest in paralegal Rachel Zane.

Season 2: Pearson Hardman faces internal and external pressures as Harvey and Jessica Pearson navigate power struggles within the firm. Mike continues to excel as an associate, but his secret becomes increasingly difficult to conceal, especially as Louis Litt grows suspicious of his background. Meanwhile, personal relationships are tested as Mike's romance with Rachel intensifies, and Harvey grapples with his own past. Specific events include a high-profile sexual harassment case, Harvey's confrontation with his former mentor, and Mike's struggles with guilt over his deception.

Season 3: Pearson Hardman becomes Pearson Darby as mergers and acquisitions shake up the firm. Mike and Harvey navigate new dynamics while dealing with personal vendettas and power struggles. Mike's relationship with Rachel faces challenges as his secret threatens to come to light, and Harvey faces consequences from his actions in the past. Meanwhile, Louis Litt's ambitions lead to conflicts within the firm, and Jessica Pearson must make difficult decisions to protect its interests. Specific events include a major merger negotiation, a hostile takeover attempt, and revelations about Harvey's troubled past.

Season 4: Pearson Darby Specter faces internal turmoil as secrets and betrayals come to light. Mike's past catches up with him as he confronts the consequences of his actions, putting his career and relationships in jeopardy. Harvey struggles with his own demons while trying to protect those closest to him, and Jessica battles to maintain control of the firm amidst external threats and internal divisions. Specific events include a lawsuit involving a former client, a hostile takeover bid from a rival firm, and Mike's desperate attempts to cover up his secret.

Season 5: Pearson Specter Litt is rocked by scandal and legal challenges, forcing the partners to confront their pasts and make difficult choices. Mike's secret becomes increasingly difficult to hide as he faces investigations and threats from all sides. Harvey, Jessica, and the rest of the firm rally to support Mike, but their efforts may not be enough to save him from the consequences of his deception. Specific events include a whistleblower lawsuit, a criminal investigation into Mike's background, and a betrayal from within the firm.

Season 6: The fallout from Mike's secret threatens to tear Pearson Specter Litt apart as he and the firm face the possibility of criminal charges. Harvey, Jessica, and their colleagues must navigate a legal minefield to protect themselves and their clients. Relationships are tested, alliances are formed and broken, and the future of the firm hangs in the balance as they fight to save their reputations and livelihoods. Specific events include Mike's arrest, his trial for conspiracy to commit fraud, and the fallout from his conviction on the firm and its employees.

## Timeline

2005-2006: Mike Ross, a college dropout with a photographic memory, takes the LSATs for others and deals drugs to make a living.

2006: Harvey Specter, a top attorney at Pearson Hardman, interviews and hires Mike as an associate despite his lack of a law degree.

2006-2011: Mike works as an associate at Pearson Hardman, where he impresses colleagues with his legal acumen while concealing his lack of formal education.

2011: Pearson Hardman rebrands as Pearson Specter after Jessica Pearson becomes managing partner.

2012: Mike becomes involved with Rachel Zane, a paralegal at Pearson Hardman.

2013: Mike decides to leave Pearson Specter to avoid detection and briefly works as an investment banker. However, he eventually returns to the firm.

2014: Pearson Specter rebrands again as Pearson Specter Litt after Louis Litt is made a name partner. Threats and investigations into Mike's background intensify.

2015: The truth about Mike's lack of a law degree becomes public, leading to legal and personal turmoil within the firm.

2016: Mike is arrested for conspiracy to commit fraud, and the firm faces significant reputational damage as a result.

2017: Mike's trial begins, attracting media attention and straining relationships within the firm as they rally to support him.

2018: After a lengthy trial, Mike is convicted and sentenced to prison, leading to changes within the firm as they navigate the aftermath of his actions.

## **Questions to Consider**

1. What needs to be done to keep the firm afloat?
2. How can the firm regain the confidence of its clients and general public?
3. Are mergers or consolidations with other firms a viable option?
4. Where might efforts be focused to repair the damage done to the firm's reputation?
5. How can associates help in mitigating the effect of financial instability?
6. Will the firms consider outside help to restore financial stability, or do they view it as an admission of defeat?
7. Will bankruptcy lead to the resurrection of the old firm, or will it permanently seal its divide?
8. Should your character prioritize the safety of their career over the survival of the company?



## **Character Dossier:**



Harvey Specter: Harvey is a Name partner at the firm, he is confident, wealthy, sharp-witted, competitive, charming, flirty, and one of the key players. He is adept at winning his cases in corporate doing whatever it takes, as well as mentor, best friend, and father figure to his associate Mike Ross. He suffers from personal struggles such as his mother cheating on his father, a broken family, and isolating himself from opening up to people. He maintains a close and rocky relationship with Jessica who put him through Harvard law school, and a love-hate relationship with Louis Litt. In addition he battles his feelings with Donna as she is his secretary for 10 years, and personal battles with his family dynamic.



Jessica Pearson: Jessica was managing + name partner at Pearson Hardman- later Pearson Specter Litt. She is a wise, composed, strategic, strong, and respected leader. As an expert in corporate law, navigating tough obstacles, she serves as a motherly figure to everyone at the firm. She is a mentor to Harvey Specter, has power struggles with Daniel hardman, and other partners. Later on she leaves the firm to pursue law in Chicago.



Robert Zane: Robert is managing partner at Zane specter Litt- later Zane specter. He is competitive, protective, family-orientated, wise, and thinks well on his feet. He serves as a key player in the merger, father to Rachel Zane, expert in corporate law, principled leader, and values loyalty in both his professional and personal life.



Louis Litt: He was senior partner at Pearson Hardman- later name partner at Pearosn Specter Litt. He is eccentric, loyal, ambitious, and emotionally exposed. He is very detail oriented, skilled litigator, and often underestimated due to impulsive emotional outbursts. He is known for being the head of the associates and very harsh tasks, screaming + outburst when things don't go his way, anger issues, and being strict. Upon the discovery of Mike's fraud he blackmails Harvey and Jessica into making him name partner hence the firm changes to Pearson

Specter Litt. He has a rivalry with Harvey Specter despite their love- hate relationship, complex dynamics with his colleagues, and a persisting desire for validation.



Daniel Hardman: Daniel was former managing partner at Pearson hardman, and was pushed out by Jessica and Harvey due to his embezzlement fraud scheme. He is ruthless, intelligent, power-hungry, a master manipulator, and controversial. He has a history with Jessica Pearson, an affair with Monica Eton, uses Louis as a pawn, and wants to take Harvey down with Jessica to gain control of the firm.



Donna Paulsen: Donna was a former secretary to Harvey and later on Chief Operating officer at Pearosn Specter Litt. She is sassy, unwavering, loyal, witty, fierce, and independent. She is a problem solver with strong instincts, and trusted advisor to the firm. She battles through her feelings for Harvery along with trying to make a name for herself apart as secretary and be valued for a higher position.



Mike Ross: Mike starts as Harvey's associate without actually attending law school but his peculiar memory allows him to memorize anything and everything. He strives to restore peace and equality in legal law for the less fortunate, and was caught as a fraud sending him to jail. He struggles to hide the lack of a law degree while navigating the high-stakes legal world, but he is able to get away from this by hacking into the bar and Harvard. Despite this, he gets out due to the help of Sean and Harvey + Anita, who allows him to pass the bar and actually become a real lawyer. He is charming, morally driven, has a photographic memory, legal and empathic savant. Protege of Harvey Specter, romantic involvement as a potential spouse with Rachel Zane.



Rachel Zane: Rachel is a former paralegal, later associate at Pearson Specter Litt. She is determined, compassionate, intelligent, ethical, and independent. She strives to make a name for herself without the help of her father Robert Zane, her future spouse to Mike Ross, and a close friend to other colleagues. Finding out Mike's secret causes dynamics in their relationship as well as a personal struggle with morals and her own father. She is strong-willed at balancing law school and her legal career with great perseverance and grace.



Trevor Evans: Trevor is Mike's best friend since they grew up together, but he was a drug dealer and later got Mike involved, causing Mike to get kicked out of Harvard. Their relationship still makes it through, but a girl gets in their way, drifting them apart. Mike starts dating Trevor's ex behind his back, and as revenge, Trevor tells Jessica Pearson that Mike never got a Harvard law degree and that he is a fraud. Trevor is complicated, messy, not very educated, and jealous of Mike's photographic memory. He envies Mike's rise to the rich corporate life and the attention Mike receives with his skills.



Katrina Bennett: Katrina is ambitious, manipulative, power hungry, intelligent, yet also compassionate with a sense of unwavering loyalty. She schemes her way into Pearson Hardman by challenging Mike on a case, as an associate who tries hard to climb to the top she was not very much liked by her colleagues. Later on her compassionate and generous side comes out and she builds close relationships with both Rachel and Mike. She is Louis Litt's associate and they have an immediate bond. She knows how to utilize her skills and work her way through sticky situations.



Sheila Sazs: Sheila is power driven, intelligent, hardworking, and leads with morals + ethics. She is the head of Harvard admissions as well as Louis Litt's fiance. She discovers that. She reads an article about Mike Ross making Junior partner and decides to look through the records as she doesn't remember him from Harvard. She discovers his record was never there and leaks it to the Article publisher. This causes Mike's secrets to spill out causing chaos to Harvard's reputation + Pearson Specter Litts as well as Sheila and Louis' relationship.



Jack Soloff: Jack is known for his complex personality as a senior partner at the firm. He is formidable, focused on the firm's financial success, ambitious, and strategic to business approaches. Jack's loyalties shift between different characters such as working as a mole for Daniel Hardman then eventually turning back to Jessica. He is partially an antagonist as he wants to help Daniel take over the firm from Harvey and Jessica. But despite his ruthless demeanor he seeks redemption and personal growth.



Harold Gunderson: Harold is former associate at Pearson Specter Litt and leaves due to Louis Litt's poor treatment towards him. Overall he is nervous, hardworking, loyal, and remains persistent to prove himself. He is research focused and dedicated to legal craft, as well as a close friend to Mike Ross. He overcomes self doubt and insecurities in order to excel in the legal field.



Anita Gibbs: Anita is assistant United States Attorney. She is known for her determination to take down Harvey through exposing Mike. She is aggressive, relentless, and cunning. As a skilled prosecutor and manipulator she is on a mission to make sure that Mike never practices law again. She ends up sending Mike to Jail and offering him a light sentence if he rats out Harvey but Mike is too loyal to take the deal.



Jeff Malone: Jeff is a seasoned attorney, he is confident, sharp-witted, and holds a reputation of being a formidable lawyer. Jeff's arrival triggers some conflicts with Harvey and Louis in the race for power, but dies down due to his romantic relationship with Jessica. He is not aware of Mike's secret despite pressuring Jessica to open up to him, he feels angered when the secret comes out and ends his relationship with Jessica.



Charles Forstman: Charles is wealthy (billionaire) and an influential businessman known for a knack of manipulating people into dirty deals. He is ruthless, charismatic, cunning, and powerful. He has a history with Harvey- specifically tricking Harvey and betraying him in a deal. He is used as a source to borrow money except the firm is cautious and skeptical in deals with him.



Dana Scott: Dana is former Senior partner at Pearosn SPecter Litt. She is confident, ambitious, and flirtatious. She serves as a formidable lawyer, skilled negotiator, and has a complex on and off relationship with Harvey. She is known for her strong presence and ability to match wits with colleagues. Dana wants more from Harvey in their on and off relationship which leads to Harvey telling her about Mike's fraud, but she stays loyal and doesn't say anything.

