

USSENATE Study Guide Agenda- Debt ceiling

20 24



ADITYA BIRLA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

POWELL: LABOR N

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Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the United States Senate Committee at this year's Model United Nations conference! As the chair of this distinguished committee, it is my honor and pleasure to guide you through the complex and dynamic world of American legislative processes. Our committee will delve into critical issues, engage in rigorous debates, and strive to understand the intricate balance of power and responsibility that defines the U.S. Senate.

My journey in Model United Nations began several years ago, and it has been a transformative experience. I started as a delegate, eager to make my voice heard on global issues and to collaborate with peers from diverse backgrounds. Over the years, I have had the privilege of serving in various capacities, from delegate to chair, each role bringing new challenges and learning opportunities. My experiences have taught me the value of diplomacy, the importance of research and preparation, and the power of effective communication.

Model United Nations has always inspired me because it offers a unique platform to simulate real-world diplomacy and international relations. It challenges us to think critically, negotiate effectively, and develop solutions to some of the world's most pressing problems. What drives me to continue participating in and organizing MUN conferences is the passion and creativity of young minds like yours. Witnessing delegates engage in thoughtful debate, demonstrate leadership, and work towards consensus fuels my commitment to this educational activity.

Our committee, the U.S. Senate, will focus on replicating the legislative process and tackling issues pertinent to American society and governance. As senators, you will be expected to represent your state's interests, collaborate with fellow legislators, and navigate the complexities of policy-making. This experience aims to enhance your understanding of the U.S. political system and to develop skills that are crucial for future leaders.

I encourage you to immerse yourselves fully in the research and preparation for this committee. Understand the nuances of the topics at hand, familiarize yourselves with the perspectives of different states, and come ready to debate, negotiate, and craft resolutions. Remember, the essence of MUN lies not just in winning awards but in the learning process and the friendships you forge along the way.



am excited to see the level of enthusiasm, knowledge, and diplomacy that you will bring to our sessions. Let us make this conference an unforgettable and enriching experience for everyone involved.

Best regards,

Ansh Zota Chair, U.S. Senate Committee Model United Nations Conference



Dear Esteemed Delegates,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you upon your allotment in the best committee of ABMUN 2024, the US Senate. You have been chosen to partake in an experience that will challenge your intellect, test your resolve, and place you at the heart of one of the most critical issues facing the US today—the US debt ceiling crisis.

Many of you may have participated in other committees before, but we assure you that the United States Senate will provide an unparalleled experience. For our first-time delegates, fear not; we are here to guide you, answer your queries, and ensure that your experience is nothing short of extraordinary.

We have meticulously prepared a comprehensive and elaborate background guide to help you understand the intricacies of our agenda. We urge you to delve deep into these study guides and to come prepared with thorough research. Your role as senators is not merely ceremonial; it is a call to action, a demand for leadership, and an opportunity to shape the course of history.

This committee will push you to your limits. You will navigate the complexities of fiscal policy, debate the implications of raising or not raising the debt ceiling, and strive to craft solutions that balance economic responsibility with the needs of our citizens. The stakes are high, and the pressure is immense, but so too is the potential for greatness.

As you step into the shoes of a United States senator, you will face the dizzying heights of legislative power and the weighty responsibility of guiding our nation through a financial crisis. Your decisions will ripple through the economy, affecting millions of lives. This is your chance to rise above the ordinary, to stand out as a leader, and to leave a lasting impact on the future.



We are the United States Senate, and this is your arena. In the words of President John F. Kennedy, "The greater our knowledge increases, the greater our ignorance unfolds." It is up to you to harness that knowledge, to illuminate the path forward, and to steer us away from the brink of economic Armageddon. Suit up, sharpen your minds, and prepare for a battle of wits and wills. Because it is up to you, ladies and gentlemen, to save our great nation and ultimately the world from descending into chaos.

Sincerely, Krishhey Thacker Assistant Director, U.S. Senate, ABMUN 2024

Information about the Senate



The United States Senate is the upper chamber of the United States Congress. It was designed to allow states a check on the legislative power of the House of Representatives. Thus, for an act of Congress to be valid, both chambers must approve it, allowing states to control federal legislation. The Senate is composed of senators, each of whom represents a particular state. Every state has two senators, each for a term of six years. Elections are held for one-third of the seats every other year. Senators are elected by popular elections in their states.

The vice-president presides over the Senate. They may cast a vote in case of a tie. The Senate consists of sixteen standing committees with several sub committees. The standing committees include policy areas such as finance, foreign relations, government operations, appropriations etc. The Senate also has the constitutional duty to consent to bills, nominations and treaties working in tandem with the House of Representatives. Both houses of the Legislature must approve a bill for it to become a law. The ratification of treaties by the Senate is an important part of the system of "Checks and Balances." The constitution allows the Senate to pass treaties formulated by the Executive when empowered with a two-thirds majority. The Senate powers also spread to changing or making amends to a treaty.

The Current U.S. Senate

The present U.S. Senate consists of 100 members, of which 49 are Republicans, 47 are Democrats, and 4 independents; all the independents caucus with the Democrats. The Senate majority is composed of 47 Democrats and 4 Independent members as Vice President Harris is a Democrat nominee. The Senate Majority Leader is Senator Schumer. The Senate minority is composed of 49 Republican senators. The Senate Minority Leader is Senator McConnell.



What is the US Debt Ceiling

n the United States, the debt ceiling or debt limit is a legislative limit on the amount of national debt that can be incurred by the U.S. Treasury, thus limiting how much money the federal government may pay by borrowing more money, on the debt it already borrowed. The debt ceiling is an aggregate figure that applies to gross debt, which includes debt in the hands of the public and intragovernment accounts.

Purpose of the Debt Ceiling

Fiscal Control: The debt ceiling is intended to control government spending by requiring Congress to approve any increase in the borrowing limit. This gives lawmakers an opportunity to discuss and decide on the country's fiscal policies.
Economic Stability: By limiting borrowing, the debt ceiling aims to prevent excessive accumulation of debt, which could lead to economic instability.

How It Works

1. **Government Borrowing:** The U.S. government borrows money to cover the gap between its spending and revenue. This borrowing is necessary to fund various programs, services, and obligations, including defense, social security, and interest payments on existing debt.

2. **Debt Accumulation:** As the government continues to run deficits (spending more than it earns), the total national debt increases.

3. **Hitting the Ceiling**: When the total debt approaches the legal limit, the government cannot issue new debt beyond this ceiling.

4. **Raising the Ceiling**: To avoid defaulting on its obligations, Congress must pass legislation to raise the debt ceiling, allowing for additional borrowing.

Consequences of Not Raising the Debt Ceiling

• **Government Default**: If the debt ceiling is not raised, the government could default on its obligations, meaning it would be unable to pay interest on its debt or meet other financial commitments.

• **Economic Impact**: A default could lead to severe economic consequences, including a loss of investor confidence, higher borrowing costs, a potential downgrade of the U.S. credit rating, and negative effects on the global economy.

• **Government Shutdowns:** Failure to address the debt ceiling may lead to partial government shutdowns, where non-essential services are halted, and federal employees are furloughed.

Historical Context



The concept of the debt ceiling has evolved over more than a century, reflecting changes in the U.S. economy, government financing needs, and political landscape.

Early Borrowing and Debt Management

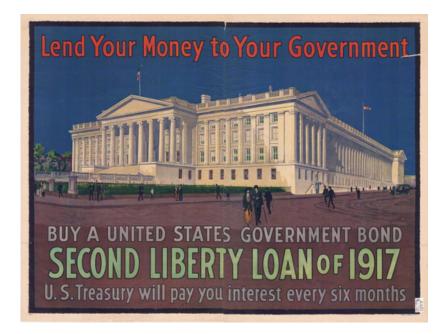
Pre-1917 Era:

- Before the establishment of the debt ceiling, Congress had to authorize each instance of borrowing individually.
- This process was cumbersome and inefficient, particularly during times of war when rapid funding was necessary.

Establishment of the Debt Ceiling

Second Liberty Bond Act of 1917:

- The U.S. entered World War I in 1917, necessitating a more flexible approach to funding.
- The Second Liberty Bond Act allowed the Treasury to issue bonds and manage debt up to a certain limit without needing individual Congressional approval for each issuance.
- This act effectively created the first version of the debt ceiling, setting a cap on the total amount of debt that could be issued.



Timeline



1941

With the U.S. entry into World War II, the debt ceiling was raised to fund the massive war effort. This marked one of the first significant uses of the debt ceiling to finance large-scale government activities. Congress increased the debt ceiling to \$65 billion, a substantial hike reflecting the urgent need for wartime spending. This move allowed the Treasury to issue war bonds and other forms of debt to support the military and allied operations.

1946

Following World War II, the U.S. transitioned from wartime to peacetime economy. The debt ceiling was adjusted to manage post-war economic conditions and obligations. The national debt had grown significantly, necessitating careful fiscal management. The ceiling was set at \$275 billion, reflecting the new economic realities and the need to stabilize the post-war economy.

1960s

The decade was marked by the Vietnam War and the introduction of Great Society programs under President Lyndon B. Johnson. The debt ceiling was raised multiple times to fund military operations and extensive social programs aimed at reducing poverty and improving civil rights. By the end of the 1960s, the ceiling had risen to \$377 billion, demonstrating the government's increased fiscal commitments.

1985

Rising deficits prompted a need for fiscal discipline. The Gramm-Rudman-Hollings Balanced Budget Act was introduced, linking debt ceiling increases to deficit reduction targets. This legislation aimed to curb the growing federal deficit through automatic spending cuts if deficit targets were not met, marking a significant step towards fiscal responsibility.

1995-1996

Political standoffs over budgetary policies led to government shutdowns. During President Bill Clinton's administration, conflicts over budget priorities and the debt ceiling resulted in two government shutdowns. These events highlighted intense partisan disagreements and underscored the critical role of the debt ceiling in budget negotiations. The ceiling was eventually raised to \$5.5 trillion as part of the resolution.

Timeline



2001-2008

Significant tax cuts and wars in Iraq and Afghanistan. The George W. Bush administration implemented large tax cuts and increased military spending, leading to growing deficits. The debt ceiling was raised multiple times, reaching \$10.615 trillion by 2008. This period underscored the ongoing challenges of balancing tax policy, military commitments, and fiscal health.

2008

The financial crisis and subsequent recession. The economic downturn required substantial government intervention and stimulus spending to stabilize the economy. The debt ceiling was raised to \$12.104 trillion to accommodate these emergency measures, highlighting the government's role in economic recovery efforts.

2011

The 2011 debt ceiling crisis was primarily driven by political and economic factors. The U.S. national debt had been steadily increasing due to the aftermath of the 2008 financial crisis, ongoing military expenditures, and significant entitlement spending. By mid-2011, the federal debt was nearing the existing debt ceiling of \$14.3 trillion. The crisis was precipitated by intense political gridlock between Republicans and Democrats. Republicans, particularly those aligned with the Tea Party movement, demanded substantial spending cuts and opposed any tax increases as conditions for raising the debt ceiling. Democrats, on the other hand, argued for a balanced approach that included both spending cuts and revenue increases.

To resolve the impasse, Congress passed the Budget Control Act (BCA) on August 2, 2011, the day the Treasury Department had indicated it would no longer be able to meet all of its obligations. The BCA allowed for an immediate \$400 billion increase in the debt ceiling, with subsequent increases subject to Congressional disapproval. Additionally, the Act established a bipartisan "supercommittee" tasked with identifying \$1.2 trillion in deficit reduction over ten years. Failure to reach an agreement would trigger automatic, across-the-board spending cuts, known as sequestration, starting in 2013. The crisis underscored the risks of political brinkmanship, leading to a downgrade of the U.S. credit rating by Standard & Poor's for the first time in history. This downgrade reflected concerns about the effectiveness of U.S. political institutions in managing fiscal policy.

Timeline



2013

Government shutdown and debt ceiling suspension. Disputes over the Affordable Care Act and budget issues led to a 16-day government shutdown. The debt ceiling was temporarily suspended to allow the government to meet its financial obligations, eventually being raised to \$17.2 trillion. This period highlighted the recurring nature of debt ceiling conflicts and their impact on government operations.

2017-2019

Frequent suspensions to avoid default. The debt ceiling was suspended multiple times to prevent economic disruption, reflecting ongoing fiscal challenges and political negotiations. By the end of 2019, the ceiling had been raised to \$22 trillion, underscoring the continuous need for legislative action to manage the national debt.

2020-2021

The COVID-19 pandemic and its economic impact. Massive government spending was required to address the pandemic's economic fallout, including stimulus packages and public health funding. The debt ceiling was raised to \$28.4 trillion, reflecting the unprecedented scale of fiscal intervention needed to support the economy and public health systems during a global crisis.

The 2023 Debt Ceiling Crisis

The 2023 U.S. debt ceiling crisis was a significant fiscal and political event that underscored the ongoing challenges of managing national debt and government spending. This study guide provides a comprehensive overview of the causes, key events, and consequences of the crisis, focusing on the interplay between domestic policy, international aid, and political dynamics.

Causes of the 2023 Crisis



National Debt Levels

By early 2023, the U.S. national debt had reached approximately \$31.4 trillion, the statutory limit set in December 2021.Moreover, Extensive spending during the COVID-19 pandemic to support businesses, individuals, and healthcare systems significantly increased the national debt. Tax cuts implemented in previous years reduced federal revenues, contributing to higher deficits.

Domestic Spending

- Entitlement Programs: Significant portions of the federal budget were allocated to entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid.
- **Infrastructure Investment**: Continued investment in infrastructure projects, part of the Biden administration's efforts to modernize the nation's infrastructure, added to the spending.

International Aid

- **Support for Ukraine**: The U.S. committed substantial financial and military aid to Ukraine in response to the ongoing conflict with Russia, totaling over \$40 billion by early 2023.
- Aid to Israel: Continued military and economic support to Israel, amounting to approximately \$3.8 billion annually, as part of long-standing foreign policy commitments.
- **Other International Assistance**: Additional aid packages to various countries for humanitarian and development assistance.

Political Factors

- **Partisan Gridlock**: Intense political polarization between Democrats and Republicans made it difficult to reach a consensus on raising the debt ceiling.
- **Fiscal Responsibility Debate**: Republicans, particularly fiscal conservatives, insisted on significant spending cuts as a condition for agreeing to raise the debt ceiling, while Democrats advocated for a balanced approach, including potential tax increases.

Timeline in 2023



January 1

U.S. Treasury Secretary warns Congress that the government is approaching the debt ceiling and will need to take extraordinary measures to avoid default.

January 15

The Treasury begins implementing extraordinary measures to continue meeting federal obligations temporarily.

February 1

President Biden urges Congress to act swiftly to raise the debt ceiling, emphasizing the potential economic risks of inaction.

February 10

House Republicans introduce a bill proposing a debt ceiling increase tied to substantial cuts in discretionary spending.

March 1

The Congressional Budget Office (CBO) releases a report detailing the economic consequences of a potential default, including higher borrowing costs and market instability.

March 15

Senate Democrats propose an alternative bill to raise the debt ceiling without any spending cuts, advocating for a clean increase.

April 5

Bipartisan negotiations begin, but little progress is made as both sides remain entrenched in their positions.

April 20

The Treasury warns that extraordinary measures will be exhausted by early June, heightening the urgency for Congressional action.

May 1

The House passes the Republican bill with spending cuts, but it faces strong opposition in the Senate.

Timeline in 2023



May 10

President Biden meets with congressional leaders to negotiate a compromise, but the talks end without an agreement.

May 17

The US stock market continues to be affected with the Nasdaq Composite has dropped by approximately 3.2%, reflecting heightened investor anxiety and uncertainty over the potential default and its implications for the technology sector and broader economy.

May 20

Major financial institutions warn of severe market repercussions if the debt ceiling is not raised soon.

May 24

The US stock market experiences a sharp decline due to escalating concerns over the debt ceiling negotiations. The S&P 500 has fallen by approximately 2.5%, while the Dow Jones Industrial Average has dropped around 2.4%. This plummet has led to a significant loss in market value, wiping out billions of dollars in investor wealth.

June 1

The Treasury announces that it will run out of cash to meet all federal obligations by June 15, known as the "X-date."

June 10

The Senate fails to pass the Democratic bill for a clean debt ceiling increase.

June 14

Rating agencies place U.S. credit on watch for a potential downgrade due to the increasing risk of default.

June 15

The Treasury officially hits the debt ceiling, and the government begins prioritizing payments to avoid immediate default.

Timeline in 2023



July 1

Partial government shutdown begins as non-essential services are halted, and federal employees are furloughed.

July 5

Financial markets react sharply to the ongoing crisis, with stock prices falling and bond yields rising.

July 10

Public protests and demonstrations occur in several cities, calling for a resolution to the crisis.

July 15

International economic bodies express concern over the potential global impact of a prolonged U.S. default.

August 1

The government defaults on a portion of its obligations, leading to a further downgrade of the U.S. credit rating.

August 5

The Federal Reserve steps in with emergency measures to stabilize financial markets.

August 10

Bipartisan talks resume with increased urgency as economic conditions deteriorate.

August 20

An interim agreement is reached to raise the debt ceiling temporarily, providing a short-term reprieve.

Consequences



Economic Impact

- **Market Volatility**: The prolonged uncertainty led to significant volatility in financial markets, with stock prices dropping sharply and bond yields spiking as investors sought safer assets.
- **Increased Borrowing Costs**: The U.S. credit rating downgrade resulted in higher borrowing costs for the federal government, translating into increased interest payments on the national debt.
- **Consumer Confidence**: Consumer confidence plummeted, as fears of economic instability and government dysfunction grew, leading to reduced spending and investment.

Domestic Consequences

- **Government Services**: The partial government shutdown disrupted various federal services, including national parks, museums, and administrative functions. Federal employees faced furloughs and delays in paychecks.
- **Social Programs**: Funding for essential social programs, including unemployment benefits, food assistance, and housing subsidies, was delayed or reduced, affecting millions of Americans.
- **State and Local Governments**: The crisis strained state and local governments that relied on federal funding for various programs, forcing them to cut services and seek alternative funding sources.

International Consequences

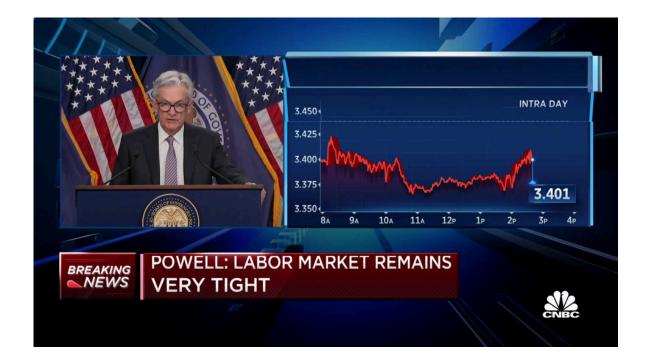
- **Global Markets**: The U.S. debt ceiling crisis sent shockwaves through global financial markets, causing declines in stock markets worldwide and increased volatility.
- Foreign Aid: Delays in U.S. financial commitments affected countries relying on American aid, including Ukraine and Israel, leading to diplomatic tensions and potential destabilization in regions dependent on U.S. support.
- **Dollar Stability**: The crisis undermined confidence in the U.S. dollar as the world's primary reserve currency, prompting some countries to explore alternative arrangements for their foreign reserves.

Consequences



Political Repercussions

- **Public Trust**: The crisis eroded public trust in government institutions and highlighted the deep partisan divides in Congress. Many Americans expressed frustration with political leaders' inability to cooperate and solve critical issues.
- **Electoral Consequences**: The debt ceiling standoff influenced upcoming elections, as voters hold politicians accountable for the economic turmoil and government dysfunction. Both parties faced intense scrutiny and criticism from their constituencies.
- **Policy Shifts**: In the aftermath, there was renewed debate over potential reforms to the debt ceiling process, with some advocating for its elimination or replacement with more sustainable fiscal mechanisms to prevent future crises. Moreover, the crisis deepened the divide between Republicans and Democrats, making bipartisan cooperation on other legislative matters more challenging. The heightened polarization hampered efforts to pass critical legislation on issues such as healthcare, immigration, and infrastructure.



Democratic Stance



Focus on Balanced Approach

Balanced Fiscal Strategy:

Democrats advocated for a balanced approach to managing the debt ceiling, emphasizing the need for a mix of spending cuts and revenue increases. They argued that relying solely on spending cuts would harm essential services and social programs that many Americans rely on.

Protecting Social Programs:

Key priorities included protecting entitlement programs such as Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. Democrats warned that significant cuts to these programs would negatively impact millions of Americans, particularly the elderly, low-income families, and vulnerable populations.

Revenue Increases:

Democrats proposed raising revenue through measures such as increasing taxes on the wealthiest individuals and corporations. They argued that ensuring the wealthy pay their fair share would help reduce the deficit without disproportionately affecting lower- and middle-income Americans.

Economic Stability:

Democrats emphasized the importance of avoiding a government default, warning that it would lead to severe economic consequences, including higher borrowing costs, market instability, and a potential recession. They argued that a default would undermine the credibility of the U.S. government and have long-lasting negative effects on the economy.

Criticism of Republican Approach:

Democrats criticized the Republican approach of tying the debt ceiling increase to significant spending cuts, describing it as irresponsible and politically motivated. They contended that such tactics risked the financial stability of the nation for partisan gain.

Investment in Future Growth:

They also stressed the need for continued investment in infrastructure, education, and healthcare to ensure long-term economic growth and competitiveness. Democrats argued that these investments are crucial for building a stronger and more resilient economy.

Republican Stance



Emphasis on Fiscal Responsibility

Spending Cuts:

Republicans focused on the need for significant spending cuts to address the growing national debt. They argued that unchecked government spending was unsustainable and would burden future generations with excessive debt. Key targets for cuts included discretionary spending and certain entitlement programs.

Opposition to Tax Increases:

Republicans were strongly opposed to raising taxes as a solution to the debt crisis. They believed that higher taxes would stifle economic growth and job creation. Instead, they advocated for reducing the size of government and promoting policies that would lead to a more efficient and lean federal budget.

Fiscal Conservatism:

Fiscal conservatism was a central theme, with Republicans emphasizing the importance of living within the nation's means. They argued that the government, like any household or business, should not spend more than it takes in. This principle guided their push for a smaller, more fiscally responsible government.

Long-Term Economic Health:

Republicans contended that reducing the deficit through spending cuts would ultimately lead to a healthier economy by lowering interest rates and fostering a more stable financial environment. They believed that a leaner government would encourage private sector growth and innovation.

Criticism of Democratic Policies:

Republicans criticized Democratic proposals for revenue increases, arguing that they would harm economic growth and lead to job losses. They also accused Democrats of being unwilling to make the tough decisions necessary to address the nation's fiscal challenges.

Strategic Negotiations:

In negotiations, Republicans used the debt ceiling as leverage to push for their broader fiscal agenda, insisting that any increase in the debt ceiling be accompanied by substantial spending reforms. They viewed this as an opportunity to force a conversation on long-term fiscal discipline.

Republican Stance



Maintaining Global Confidence:

While acknowledging the risks of default, Republicans believed that demonstrating a commitment to fiscal responsibility would ultimately bolster global confidence in the U.S. economy. They argued that creditors and markets would respond positively to signs that the U.S. was taking serious steps to manage its debt.

These stances highlight the fundamental ideological differences between the two parties on fiscal policy and governance, shaping their approaches to the 2023 debt ceiling crisis.



QARMA



- What immediate measures should be taken to prevent a government default?
- Should the debt ceiling be raised or suspended?
- What is the proposed timeline for these measures?
- Addressing the various consequences of the US Debt Ceiling crisis, including Economic, Social and Humanitarian impacts along with Domestic, International and Political consequences.
- Steps to bring the economy back to its normal state
- Steps to bring back the stock market to stability from its decline in the debt ceiling crisis
- What long-term solutions can ensure sustainable fiscal policies?
- How can future debt ceiling crises be prevented?
- Should there be reforms to the debt ceiling process itself?



Position Paper Format



Position papers are the best and most concise ways for delegates to clarify their stance on the topic to the EB. Each position paper shall consist of four subcategories: Statement of the Problem, Causes, Country policy and Solutions.

A. Statement of the problem:

Under this category, we expect delegates to give a concise summary of the problem at hand. This statement must be from the perspective of your individual allocations and reflect the situation in a clear and concise manner. The problem statement is essentially a short summary of the problem that should be conveyed in roughly two-three paragraphs.

B. Causes: Under this category, delegates must state and expand on the causes leading to this particular problem being discussed. The causes must be in line with the country's policy. These causes should not exceed more than four in number. Delegates are advised to present these problems after thorough research.

C. Portfolio Policy: This is the most important category for every delegate. This portfolio policy should convey the country's stance in a clear, concise manner not exceeding two paragraphs. Any past action taken by your country can be cited in this category so long as they remain valid in the current scenario.

D: Solutions:

This is the last category for the position paper. In this category, we urge the delegates to put forth their solutions. These solutions should serve to solve short term as well as long term problems discussed in the study guide. We urge delegates to put forth feasible solutions that can be easily implemented.



Links to Visit

1.https://www.investopedia.com/terms/d/debt-ceiling.asp

2. <u>https://www.whitehouse.gov/cea/written-materials/2023/05/03/debt-ceiling-</u> <u>scenarios/</u>

3. https://www.bbc.com/news/business-65461927

4. https://www.investopedia.com/terms/1/2011-debt-ceiling-crisis.asp

5. https://www.conference-board.org/publications/2023-US-debt-ceiling-crisis

6. <u>https://home.treasury.gov/policy-issues/financial-markets-financial-institutions-and-</u> <u>fiscal-service/debt-limit</u>

7. <u>https://www.aljazeera.com/news/2023/5/30/us-debt-limit-deal-how-we-got-here#:~:text=US%20law%2C%20however%2C%20restricts%20how,times%20over%20the%20past%20decades.</u>

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