

# **Montclair Middle School Model United Nations**

**UNESCO Bills and Briefs 2017**  
**By Isabel Levine and Grace Gorant**

THE CIVICS & GOVERNMENT INSTITUTE

<b>Committee: UNESCO</b>	<b>Principal Authors: Grace Gorant, Isabel Levine</b>
<b>Resolution No: 1</b>	<b>Co-Authors:</b>

**Title of Resolution: A Resolution to Keep the Books in School**

RESOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

**Preamble:**

*Whereas* books such as *An Abundance of Katherines*, *Looking for Alaska*, *The Miseducation of Cameron Post*, and *The Absolutely True Diary of a Part-Time Indian* have been banned or challenged in U.S. high schools on the bases that they were “too racy to read,” homosexual content, or sexual and racial content.

*Whereas* removing books from English curricula shields students from exposure to the real world;  
*Whereas* preventing this exposure can be detrimental to childhood and adolescent development;

*Whereas* public school is an environment created to foster individual thinking and analytical skills;

*Whereas* by removing books from curricula, students’ ability to do so is hindered.

**Section 1:** The countries within the United Nations will hereby be encouraged to create legislation that prevents public secondary education from banning books/removing books from current or future English curricula on the following bases:

- Sexual content or language
- Racial content or language
- Drug or alcohol-related content or language
- Violent content or language

**Brief:**

High schools across the world remove books from their English curricula because they believe the content to be too inappropriate for the students to read. Sometimes this is prompted by parents' complaints, other times not. Many find these banning actions to be unacceptable, as they prevent important teaching moments about, and exposure to, real world issues and realities. These people believe that in order for children to contribute successfully to society, they must be exposed to all aspects of the world -- both good and bad. Others believe that high schoolers should not be reading everything in schools. Most freshmen are only fourteen, and exposing them to sexually explicit content in schools may violate important values held by their parents and/or families. Similarly, many argue that exposing children to discriminatory content in their books may influence the way they see the world in a negative light, encouraging prejudice by normalizing racism or misogyny. It is up to you, Model UN representatives, to decide what is best for the children of our world!

Sources:

<https://www.theodysseyonline.com/never-ban-books>

<https://www.ila.org/initiatives/banned-books-week/books-challenged-or-banned-in-2014-2015>

<http://thefederalist.com/2014/03/11/in-defense-of-book-banning/>

<http://libguides.butler.edu/bannedbooks?p=217686>

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<b>Resolution No: 2</b>	<b>Co-Authors:</b>

**Title of Resolution: A Resolution to Keep Food Safe**

**RESOLUTION OF THE PEOPLE OF MIDDLE SCHOOL MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

**Preamble:**

*Whereas* pesticides can often run into nearby water sources, making water dangerous;

*Whereas* pesticides may kill local animals such as fish and rabbits that might otherwise be used as food;

*Whereas* organic foods are those that do not contain pesticides;

*Whereas* pesticides have been linked to cancer, ADHD, Alzheimer's disease, and even birth defects;

**Section 1:** The countries within the United Nations will hereby be encouraged to create legislation that bans the use of synthetic pesticides by commercial farmers in the nation.

**Section 2:** The countries within the United Nations will hereby be encouraged to ban the sale of foods that have been treated with synthetic pesticides.

**Brief:**

The agricultural industry has made significant advances in recent years, making use of fertilizers and pesticides in order to maximize the production of crops and create the most possible food for the people. An unfortunate side effect of the continued use of pesticides, however, is the endangerment of food safety. Many of the pesticides that are used by farmers in order to control pests and prevent crop diseases have a very real human impact, causing illness and birth defects when they leach into the regions surrounding farms and when food that is not properly washed is ingested by young children.

However, regional farmers are also highly dependent on pesticides, and the increased crop yields they allow. Eliminating pesticides might have the negative consequences on their livelihoods and the prices and sale of food as a whole and may make food less widely available to the poor.

Which of these matters is more pressing? Is there a way to balance these two interests, or keep both sides happy? That's for you to decide!

**Sources (or find your own!):**

<http://www.croplifeasia.org/wp-content/uploads/2013/02/EightBenefits-Pesticides.pdf>

[http://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/green-science/the\\_dangers\\_of\\_pesticides](http://www.nature.com/scitable/blog/green-science/the_dangers_of_pesticides)

<http://pesticideinfo.net/answers/what-are-the-benefits-of-pesticides>

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