



# **Crisis Committee**

## **Committee Bulletin**

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# Crisis Committee



**Co-Director's Welcome Letter,**

Hello, delegates! It is our honor this year to be your Crisis Co-Directors for the eighth conference of DALE Nicaragua. We are glad to have you making DALE history with us by being part of this year's Crisis Committee. We are extremely excited and enthusiastic about this opportunity and for being able to be the directors of a brand new committee. This committee is a perfect opportunity for delegates to show their strong analytical, teamwork, and creative skills. Thank you so much for showing interest in this new committee and taking a risk.

It is our pleasure to guide you along the process of creating creative and innovative crises that will shock delegates throughout all committees. Unlike other precedent committees, this committee is not somewhere where delegates showcase their talent in debate through their spokespersonship, but instead a committee where delegates can make spontaneous crises that can greatly influence the course of the debate. In this committee, we are all united by our motivation for making the crises of this congress the best that DALE Nicaragua has ever seen. This year, we hope that through the help of all of you, we can increase the quality of the crisis and as a result, enhance the general experience of all delegates in DALE. If you have any questions or doubts, please don't hesitate to contact us, we are happy to help.

Sincerely, your Co-Directors

Sofia Sanson, Jihun Jung, Mariana Delgado

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## **Introduction**

Throughout the years, delegates that have participated in DALE Nicaragua have experienced what is known as a crisis. Normally, these crises are created and executed by Crisis Directors, however, this year DALE Nicaragua has taken a new initiative in which delegates of the Crisis Committee will be actively involved in the creation and execution of its crises. Contrary to other committees, the Crisis Committee is a double delegation committee in which participants will be assigned to a committee where they will be working in collaboration with another delegate to come up with a crisis relevant to the topics being discussed there.

In this committee, delegates will have to enforce a different set of skills for public speaking than what is usually seen in other DALE committees. As delegates of the Crisis Committee, participants will be challenged on their acting skills, data gathering, creativity, analytical skills, as well as teamwork. Don't forget that this committee, like any other, is a competition and therefore, requires large amounts of dedication and motivation.

## **Purpose of the Committee**

The purpose of this committee is to ensure that each and every committee gets relevant and effective crises. Crises serve as a wake-up call to delegates and are used to make the debate more interesting. Because of this, it is of extreme importance that they are both successfully created and executed throughout all committees. In past years, crisis directors had to try to act out a relevant and effective crisis for all of the committees, something that proved to be heavily

ineffective. Crises should be exciting for delegates to witness but also applicable to the current topics being debated which was not always the case. This year DALE is attempting to address this issue by having two delegates solely focused on making a good crisis for a specific committee.

### **What would you do to create a crisis?**

Making an effective crisis requires *preparation, research, dedication, and creativity*, where your main goal is to change the direction of the debate or invoke a controversial situation. Throughout the committee, crises will serve as a test and as an opportunity for debating delegates to prove their quick thinking in difficult situations. For members of the Crisis Committee, the different crises will show their knowledge of the topic, as well as their preparation, and their control of the skill set needed to perform an effective crisis.

### ***Process:***

You will be assigned a committee (once you have paid) in which you will have to create generalized crises proposals before the conference. These would be developed with the help of a “Crisis Application Form” and a list of requirements provided in the following pages. To make these generalized crises, delegates will have to research the topic of their assigned committee and consider all possible directions the debate could take. By anticipating all possible directions delegates are more likely to have their crisis being relevant to the topic on the day of the conference. Additionally, it’s important to consider that you must execute a minimum number of

crises throughout both conference days, and adhere to the dates provided in the schedule below for the right moment to turn in your proposals and plans. The number of crises you are required to execute depends on the committee that you are assigned. During the conference day, you will be frequently getting in and out of your given committee to be able to assess what is occurring at that moment. You will proceed to modify your initial crises in order to fit in adequately with what is occurring at the moment in the debate. Please take in mind that crisis proposals must be approved by both the Crisis directors and the directors from the committee you were assigned to. If given enough time delegates should also act out the crisis they will perform, when there are no debating delegates, in front of a Crisis director as well as each committee's Co-Directors, so that they approve of the crisis and are comfortable with the way it will be performed.

### ***Examples?***

An example of this would be blaming a delegate for doing something atrocious, calling out a country's government, inventing a secret plot between two countries or delegates, a mass shooting, an epidemic/pandemic regarding health issues, a press release, and so many other ideas. The possibilities in this committee are endless. It is extremely important to be creative in this committee, but also be respectful of the delegates and the co-directors in it.

**Preparation Checklist:**

- ❑ As previously mentioned, the Crisis Committee will work in a double delegation style.

This means that in order to be part of the committee you need to find a partner to create and execute different crises at the conference. Please make sure that you are choosing a partner with whom you know you work well. Delegates won't be able to change partners, unless under extreme circumstances. In the case that you are not sure who you want to work with, delegates are allowed to apply to the committee alone. However, in this case a random delegate will be assigned to work with them.

- ❑ Delegates will be assigned to their committee of preference if it is available. The sooner you comply with **payment** or **any reservation method**, the sooner you will know which committee you will be assigned. Please take into consideration that the number of crises you are expected to perform may vary across different committee types.

- ❑ Even though the Crisis Committee itself requires no research, in order to perform relevant and well thought out crises, as delegates of the Crises Committee you must be familiar with the topics of your assigned committee. Your Co-Directors recommend that you read the bulletin of your given committee, as well as further researching the topics to better comprehend what is going on during the debate. The more you know and comprehend the given topic, the better crises you'll be able to create.

- ❑ The *Crisis Application Form* is a document that will be frequently used in the Crisis Committee. It is the paper that you, as a delegate, must submit in order to perform a crisis. It is very important to familiarize yourself with this document since you'll be



required to fill it out rapidly during the conference. The document can be found on the bottom of the page as a hyperlink.

- ❑ Although it is expected of delegates to create a crisis spontaneously during the conference, it is very important to think ahead. You are expected to imagine all the possible directions that the debate could take and prepare generalized crises, before the debate, that you can adapt to any given situation the day of the conference. Having pre-made crises will not only make it easier to narrow down the focus of your crises arcs but will also help to improvise and execute them while they are still relevant. If delegates wait too long to perform their crises the debate might move on and the crises will lose relevance. Delegates must use the *Crisis Application Form* when creating pre-made crises, it will not only help you organize your ideas, but it will help us as the directors to evaluate some very important aspects of your crises.
- ❑ To better understand and practice for the Crisis Committee we heavily recommend that you attend as many practices as possible. The Co-Directors will always be there to answer any questions.
- ❑ It is extremely important that you communicate with the committee directors, both the Crisis Committee and the directors of your assigned committee. The Crisis Committee directors will help and guide you while creating crises. The directors of your assigned committee will not only help you by telling you what crises they expect for the committee and what topics they want to focus on, but also by giving you ideas on how to perform them. No crises can be executed if it does not align with the committee directors' vision for the debate.

**Conference Day Expectations:**

- ❑ All delegates are expected to bring their own materials and props to use during the conference. As we previously mentioned it is important that you think ahead of possible crises that may happen during the debate. Thinking ahead will give you an idea of the props you might use during the conference. Bringing appropriate materials will show your dedication and preparation to the committee.
- ❑ In order to be aware of what is happening in each debate room, delegates are expected to stay inside their assigned committee. There should be active listening and note-taking, as the debate moves forward. Most of the time you should stay inside the committee, only leaving for short periods of time, in cases such as going to the bathroom, getting a *Crisis Application Form* approved, and executing a crisis. Staying inside the debate room will let you know if the crisis you are trying to perform is still relevant.
- ❑ Before executing any crises you are expected to fill out the *Crisis Application Form* and have it approved by both, the Crisis Committee supervising director, and the directors of your assigned committee. If a crisis is not approved you should follow through with suggestions given by your directors for it to be accepted.
- ❑ As committee directors we expect that the crises you create are elaborate, well thought out, and creative, but also that they demonstrate your knowledge and mastery of the topic.
- ❑ Before planning or executing any crises it is important that you communicate with your directors. By talking with your assigned committee directors during conference day,

you'll better understand the course of action they want for the debate. Through different crises, you may help the committee directors reach a specific outcome.

- ❑ Each committee type will require a different number of crises and you are expected to perform an appropriate number of crises for your assigned committee. The less crises you have, the more weight each one of them will have while grading your work.
- ❑ Delegates should maintain a professional and respectful behavior with the directors and other delegates. Any complaints about your attitude and behavior both in and out debate rooms will affect your scoring.

***Rules for Crisis Committee Delegate:***

Establishing rules is key to ensuring that we are not being either disrespectful or a source of distraction to other delegates that are in the process of debating. Even though your goal is to create a situation that alters the path of the debate, you must keep your plan discrete (which means that you should ***not*** share your crises with anyone else), and prevent interrupting debate times in order to get your crises approved.

- ❑ Be respectful to the delegates and co-directors both inside and outside the debate room. You are there only to observe and analyze what is going on. If we hear complaints from directors, points will be deducted.
- ❑ Fill out the application form completely, leaving no blank spaces, and follow-through only with what is included in Crisis Application Form. Please do not improvise any

significant actions during your crisis that are not approved through the Crisis Application Form.

- ❑ If a delegate *will* be *directly* involved (physical contact, need of a delegate to step out of the debate, etc) you should always ask for approval first of committee directors, then of the delegate, at a moment they are not actively involved in speaking.
- ❑ Be punctual to the conference both days, and comply with meeting at the room with the co-directors when asked to.
- ❑ No information can be shared regarding an upcoming crisis because it gives an unfair advantage to delegates. Sharing information about a crisis may deeply affect your scoring and placement.
- ❑ All crises must be supervised by at least ONE crisis director. If a crisis is not supervised and/or recorded it will not be evaluated.
- ❑ Delegates are encouraged to bring their own materials and props; however, it is of extreme importance that the props brought can NOT harm or jeopardize the safety of the delegates physically. Certain crises may require threatening props such as guns or knives, which are NOT allowed during the conference. Because of this, delegates need to bring fake props as these real ones may be a threat to a delegate's safety. In the case of fake weapons, they MUST be clearly distinguishable from a real weapon (Delegates are encouraged to send the co-directors a verification email with an image of the prop they wish to take to the conference if they feel unsure of the eligibility of the prop).

## The Crisis Application Form

In this committee many delegates will be spread through different committees creating different crises, which can create disorder because there are only three Co-Directors to supervise them. The *Crisis Application Form* (attached in **Resources**) is a document created in order to organize both committee directors and delegates. It outlines everything delegates need to know and specify while creating a crisis, but it also serves a resource towards creating order. By explaining what is going on during the debate, outlining what the crisis will be, and specifying times of execution, the *Crisis Application Form* organizes both Committee director's time and delegates' ideas.

For any crisis to be approved delegates must accurately fill out the *Crisis Application Form*. This is to ensure that Crisis and Committee directors know enough about the context of the debate, the outline of your crises, and the desired effects of their actions, to decide whether or not the crisis should be approved. If you make any changes to *The Crisis Application Form* after it has been approved, then it must be resubmitted for approval. Even though the given changes may be suggestions given by committee directors, it is important to present the document once again as it may affect a supervisor's schedule or create an unwanted effect on the debate.

### ***How to elaborate a crisis:***

It is key for a crisis delegate to understand how to elaborate a crisis properly, as it is their main job being part of this committee. The following is a checklist of what you could do for appropriate crisis planning:

#### **Prior to planning your crisis:**

- ☐ Research on the committee you were assigned to by reading their bulletin and researching additional information on the topics that are set to be debated.
- ☐ Begin brainstorming on general situations that can take place and create a good crisis. These would be good to have on hand as a list, as you could get any situation that applies best to the situation and adapt it to what is happening inside the debate room.
- ☐ Make a list of possible props that you can use while acting out the crises, allowing you to look for them at home or at a store, as well as get them approved by the Crisis Directors in case there is any doubt regarding if the object can be used in the conference.

#### ***Preparing your crisis:***

- ☐ Use the **Crisis Application Form** (Link is attached in Page 15 of the bulletin) in order to plan your crisis out adequately.
- ☐ Fill each box with the appropriate information.
  - ☐ **Context:** Describe what is happening inside the debate room. You can cite who is having a “heated” conversation, defining two sides/opinions regarding the conversation subject, etc. Here you need to describe what is happening in the debate and how your crisis will relate to it.

- ❑ **Materials:** List the materials you will need in order to play out your crisis. Also, cite if you will need additional people to act in the situation that you plan to execute.
- ❑ **What will you do:** Give a rundown of the plan you will try to execute. This does not have to be long, but it has to be very detailed. You should also determine who is going to be involved in the crisis.
- ❑ **Reasoning:** Explain what is your goal or what you want to achieve from executing this crisis. Try to decipher what the delegates would think or if they would change their minds after seeing you play out the situation in front of their eyes.

## Conclusion

Even though the Crisis Committee is a new addition to DALE, expectations are high and we are sure you will be able to meet them as our delegates. We are happy to have you be part of this team and we are sure that you will fulfill all the requirements and make this congress' experience go beyond the limits. As delegates of a new committee, there is a challenge ahead of you. We'd like to remind you that this challenge will require a lot of effort and responsibility; however, you can always count with the support of your partner and your co-directors if you ever need help. We highly recommend you attend and participate in practices, go over the process of creating a crisis multiple times, and have active communication between your partner and us (the co-directors). Aside from that, we would also like to encourage you to put the most of your effort into your work, as the path of the debate and the DALE experience is in your hands, but also, enjoy and cherish the moments you spend working with others to make the most out of your

time. Finally, we hope that you enjoy DALE as much as we have enjoyed preparing you for it, reading this bulletin is the first step towards creating a good crisis and a good DALE experience. Please feel free to reach out whenever you need to.

***Resources:***

- [Crisis Application Form \(English\)](#)
- [Formulario de Solicitud de Crisis \(Spanish\)](#)