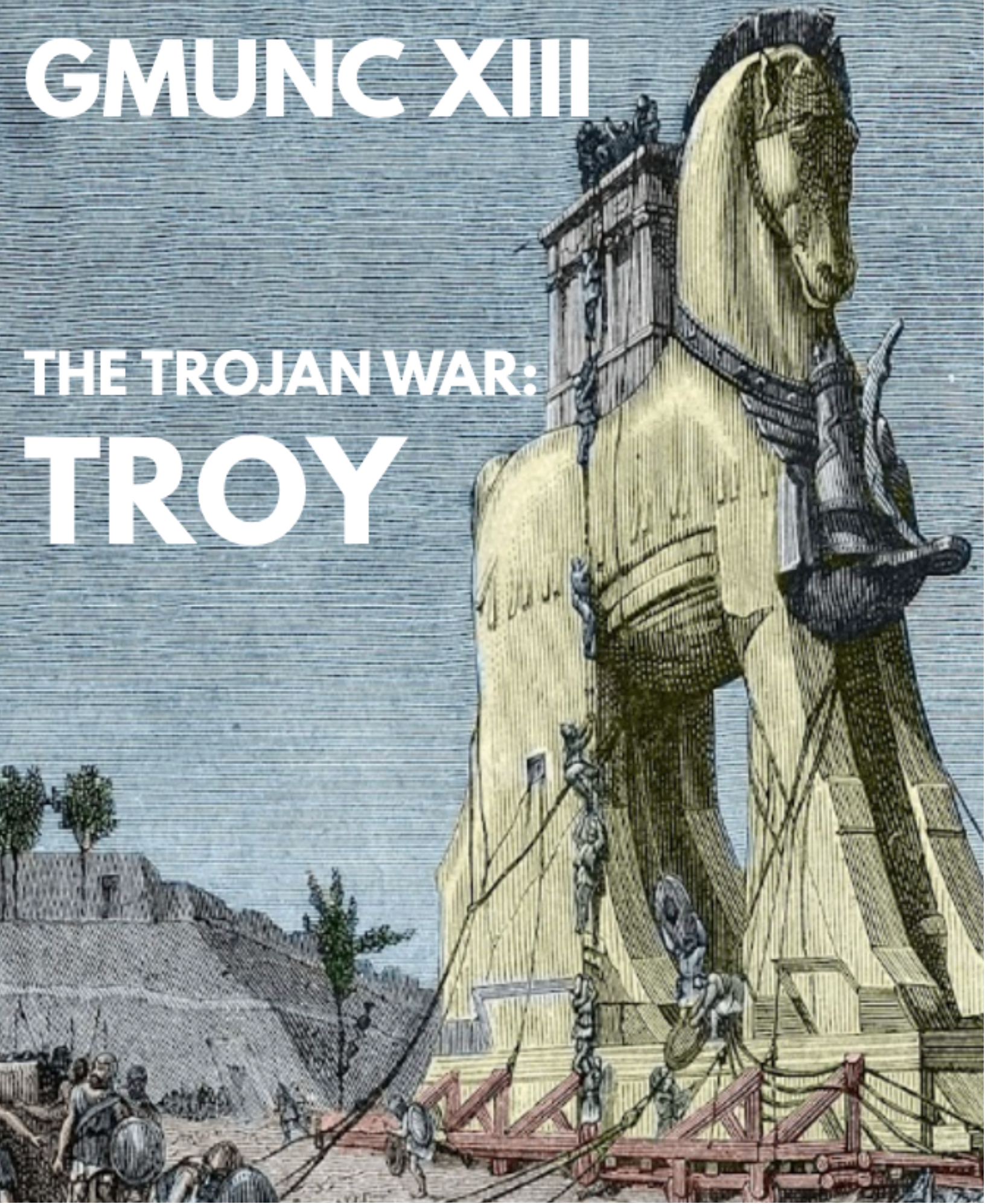


GMUNC XIII

THE TROJAN WAR:

TROY



I. Conference Information

It's our immense pleasure to welcome all delegates to the Gunn Model United Nations Conference XIII! Before delegates start reading this background guide, please remember that position papers are due on October 17 to be considered for a research award. The final deadline on October 23 is for general awards (all awards except research awards). If you do not submit a position paper by this date by 11:59, you will NOT be eligible for any committee awards. For questions on position paper requirements please check out the position paper writing guide on the GMUNC website (<https://gmunc.org/conference>). In addition we will not tolerate any use of AI, if a sufficient detection of AI is found you will be disqualified from ALL awards and your Delegation will be made aware. Please send position papers in PDF format (we will not accept sharing of google docs or any other methods) and committee-specific inquiries to the committee email address gmuncxiiijctroy@gmail.com.

II. Chair Bios

Neve Chakraborty · Head Chair



Email: nc39207@pausd.us

Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Neve Chakraborty, and I am so excited to serve as your head chair for GMUNC this year! I'm currently a junior at Gunn, and I've participated in MUN for six years, including crisis staffing last year for GMUNC XII. Over the years, I've come to love not just the discussion and strategy of Model UN, but also the amazing wisdom and friendship you can gain from this community. In the world of

politics, I'm particularly passionate about human rights, gender equality, and social justice. Outside of Model UN, I like to read, watch movies with my friends, and spend time with my family.

Finally to all delegates, welcome to the Trojan War! I'm so excited to see what you have in store for Solimar and I. See you in committee!

Sincerely, Neve Chakraborty

Solimar Tabares · Co-Chair



Email: st48891@pausd.us

Dear Esteemed Delegates,

My name is Solimar Tabares and I am very excited to serve as your co-chair for GMUNC this year! I am currently a senior at Gunn High School, and this is my third year in Model UN. One of my favorite aspects of MUN is the opportunity to step into different roles and debate passionately on something you are educated in. To me, being able to work collaboratively to develop solutions to challenging problems not only in MUN but other areas of life is a skill that is extremely important, which makes it a huge reason why I enjoy Model UN. Outside of MUN, I am passionate about Entrepreneurship and public speaking, and I enjoy playing volleyball and hanging out with my friends!

Overall, I hope you enjoy this committee as much as Neve and I have enjoyed preparing it. We are excited to see the strategies and creativity that each of you bring to the Trojan War, and we look forward to meeting all of you in committee!

Best,

Solimar Tabares

III. Foreward

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to GMUNC XIII and the Trojan War! Please read through this foreword to ensure you have all the necessary information for an enjoyable and productive committee.

After Queen Helen of Sparta is taken to Troy by its Prince Paris, the leaders of several Greek city-states declare war on Troy and sail to recover her. This is where our committee begins. Delegates will negotiate plans for warfare while defending their city from a massive conflict that could be the fall of Troy. The goal is to reestablish peace with the city-states while protecting the civilians of Troy, maintaining Troy's honor, and preventing as much harm to the city as possible (physical, economical, or social). This committee is a joint-crisis committee (JCC) featuring both this side and as the Greek side of the war. Directives will be formulated and completed in each committee individually, but crisis updates and the outcome of the committee will depend on both sides of the conflict.

As always, GMUNC as always welcomes delegates from all skill levels to participate. At the beginning of the day we'll give a short review of parliamentary procedure and open the floor to any questions before the session begins. However, regardless of skill level, we encourage all delegates to participate and contribute to the committee. Since this may be a delegate's first time in a JCC, crisis committee, or in a committee at all, please make sure to act with courtesy and kindness at all times. In addition to respect and courtesy, medical and contact forms are required for each delegate to participate in GMUNC. Please ensure that your delegation has submitted all the necessary forms ahead of time.

Finally, a quick note about research and position papers. As this committee's topic is largely based in mythology and legends, it can be easy to find conflicting information about characters or the war. Due to this, chairs and crisis staff will have some leniency in interpretations of powers and events within reason. If you have any questions about research, please reach out to us and we'll do our best to clarify. This could be a complicated crisis, so we strongly urge all delegates to thoroughly research your position and gain a clear understanding of your position, objectives, and potentially a crisis arc.

For research or otherwise based questions, please feel free to reach out to us through either the committee email or the ones in our bios. As your chairs, we're a resource here to help you understand the topic and Model UN, and we could not have this crisis without you. We can't wait to see what course you will set for this committee. The Dias wishes you luck with your position papers, and look forward to seeing you on October 24th!

Sincerely,

Neve Chakraborty and Solimar Tabares

IV. Introduction

The Trojan War is one of the most well-known conflicts in ancient mythology. Many accounts of the war are in the style of epic poems, especially Homer's *Iliad*. In the context of this committee, Homer's epics, as well as other pieces of Greek mythology, will be treated as fact. The roots of the conflict begin when the goddess of love, Aphrodite, promises Prince Paris of Troy the most beautiful woman in the world to be his wife. However, this woman, Queen Helen of Sparta, is already married to King Menelaus of Sparta. With Aphrodite's help, Paris sneaks Helen out of her palace and takes her to Troy, angering Menelaus. After allying himself with the rulers of several other Greek city-states such as Ithaca and Athens, King Menelaus then declares war on the city of Troy. On a fleet of fifty ships, the Greeks (also known as the Achaeans) then set sail for Troy to retrieve Helen and defend Sparta's honor. This is where our committee begins. As a council consisting of Troy's leaders, allies, and significant community members, the delegates will need to respond to the impending threat of the Greek forces that have set sail. The Trojan citizens have not been alerted to the conflict, and there are armies nearly at the shores of Troy.

As delegates move forward in their research, there are a few important points to note. The first is that as this committee's topic is largely based in mythology and legends, it can be easy to find conflicting information about characters or the war. Due to this, chairs and crisis staff will have some leniency in interpretations of powers and events within reason. In addition, delegates in committee will each have varying powers. Many rely on titles or positions within Troy, such as military leaders or the royal family. In addition, gods and goddesses in committee will have powers within their domain. For example, Aphrodite would have influence over love and attraction. The powers of gods and goddesses are not always guaranteed to work, and cannot be used against any members of either committee directly.

However, things that affect a larger group that includes members in either committee would be permitted. As the committee works to respond to the impending threat, they must balance warfare, diplomacy, and compromise to protect the civilians and city of Troy.

V. Historical Context

The Trojan War is a conflict that is rooted in not only history, but mythology and legend. Many accounts of this story were recorded in ancient epic poems, notably Homer's *Iliad* and *Odyssey*.

Historians typically date the war to around the twelfth or thirteenth century BCE, however there isn't

much certainty around a specific date. Based on modern estimates and discoveries, the city of Troy was located along the Dardanelles Strait in what is now Turkey, making it a key center for maritime trade between the Aegean and Black Seas. It is also likely that the city of Troy was partially dependent on trade for imports of food or goods. Archeological digs at Hisarlik, a city near the strait, have uncovered settlements with signs of violent destruction commonly affiliated with warfare. However, a lack of concrete evidence linking the damage to the city of Troy prevents a



definitive connection between the two locations or the existence of the city at all.

According to myth, the original roots of the Trojan War began decades before the conflict began, with the birth of the Trojan prince Alexander (who was later known as Paris). Before his birth, a prophecy was read by several seers that Paris would bring the downfall of Troy. In order to avoid this, his father, King Priam, ordered that the baby Paris be abandoned to die. However, a nearby shepherd found Paris, and raised him until Paris was a young man. Meanwhile, on Olympus (the city of the gods) Eris, the goddess of discord, was seeking revenge for not being invited to the wedding of Peleus and Thetis, two other immortals. Seeking to create a conflict between the Olympian gods Eris created a golden apple labeled "to the fairest," and threw it into the party. Quickly, three goddesses attempted to claim this prize:

Hera, the queen of the gods and goddess of marriage; Athena, the goddess of wisdom and strategic warfare; and Aphrodite, the goddess of beauty. In order to avoid a conflict between the three, Zeus, the king of the gods, chose a human to determine who the apple belonged to: the shepherd Paris. To entice him to give them the apple, each goddess promised Paris different gifts. Hera promised power over Europe and Asia, Athena promised to grant him great wisdom and fighting skill, and Aphrodite promised him the most beautiful woman in the world as his wife. Paris chose to gift the apple to Aphrodite, gaining her favor, but antagonizing both Hera and Athena from himself and Troy. Several years later in an athletic competition held in Troy, Paris managed to defeat King Priam's other sons, and his identity was revealed. He was then welcomed back into the royal family and years later, Paris was sent on a diplomatic mission to Sparta.

While in Sparta, Prince Paris met Queen Helen of Sparta, whose beauty stunned him. Helen was widely renowned for her beauty in the Greek world, and when she had become eligible for marriage, many suitors sought her hand. In order to manage the rivalry between these suitors, her father King Tyndareus of Sparta, made all those who wished to marry her sign an oath. This oath declared that if anyone tried to abduct Helen or disturb her marriage, all the leaders of Greece that signed it must provide aid to return her. Helen then married a prince named Menelaus from Mycenae, and the two became the rulers of Sparta. However, upon seeing her for the first time, Paris immediately falls in love with Helen. Due to her promise to grant him the most beautiful woman in the world, Aphrodite agrees to help Paris win Helen. With Aphrodite's help, Paris seduced Helen and left for Troy, without clarity on whether it was a kidnapping or a voluntary escape. Once King Menelaus learned of Helen's disappearance, he asked his brother, King Agamemnon of Mycenae for support. Together, the two used the Oath of Tyndareus as well as other alliances to form an army consisting of monarchs of city-states, former suitors, and military figures. Among those who joined the conflict were Odysseus, the ruler of Ithaca, and the famed warrior Achilles. This coalition of assembled leaders managed to gather over a thousand ships at the city of Aulis, ready to depart for Troy. However before they could depart, Agamemnon angered the goddess of the wilderness, Artemis. In retaliation, she halted the winds, preventing the army from leaving for Troy. Agamemnon then consulted a seer who declared that the goddess could only be appeased by the sacrifice of his daughter, Princess Iphigenia. She was brought to Aulis under the guise of marrying Achilles and was sacrificed to Artemis. Soon afterwards, the winds returned, and the Greek army began to cross the Aegean to siege Troy.

VI. Current Situation



Following the return of the winds at Aulis, the allied Greek armada is currently crossing the Aegean Sea and is nearly at the shores of Troy. With over a thousand ships filled with warriors and weapons, the Greek coalition poses one of the largest threats in Troy's history. While this conflict originated with the recovery of Helen, many of the Greek leaders are now committed to proving the strength of their alliance and their collective military power. As a result, the possibility of a diplomatic solution to the conflict continues to decline as actions on both sides become more and more difficult to reverse.

Within Troy, the government and military must prepare for the possibility of a direct assault or a prolonged siege. Defending and maintaining the city will require management of resources and public

support as well as military power. The Trojan council must also consider what possible long-term consequences their response could bring. Any capitulation to Greek demands could be perceived as a loss of honor and sovereignty. However, choosing to fight them risks exposing the city or the civilian population. This civilian population represents another important factor in the developing crisis. Although ordinary citizens of Troy played no role in the political decisions that lead to the conflict, they are positioned to suffer many of its effects. As the Greeks arrive into Troy, economic instability, shortages of necessary supplies, and other disruptions towards their lives are sure to begin developing. In addition, if active fighting or conflict begins, there is a near guarantee of many other sacrifices or losses that Trojan civilians will need to face.

In addition to managing the stability of Troy within its walls, the matters of international affairs and economics could also be upturned by the conflict. Troy occupies a position in major trade routes linking the Aegean and Black Seas, allowing it to benefit from and influence the transport of various goods across the continent. A large-scale war, especially one that involves foreign ships in Troy's ports, threatens to significantly disrupt these trade networks. With the weakening of these trade networks, international alliances could also waver. The Greek alliance represents a nearly unprecedented level of cooperation among independent kingdoms and city-states, many of which have previously only acted in their own interests. While this not only poses a threat towards Troy, it could also indicate a warning to those who would stand with or support Troy.

However, the Trojans are not the only ones with uncertain alliances. Though many Greek leaders had joined the coalition against Troy, they were each bound by the Oath of Tyndareus, rather than a mutual interest. Due to the fact that disobeying this treaty could risk war among the Greek city-states, it's possible many leaders joined to preserve their domestic safety rather than a genuine desire for the conflict. This indicates not only that each of the Greek leaders have their own interests, but that the alliance of the Greek coalition could become fragile. Consequently the potential for internal conflict or divided loyalties among the Greek forces remains high.

At present, there is no effective system for mediation between the opposing sides, and relations have deteriorated to where compromise appears increasingly unlikely, though still possible. With an imminent threat emerging, the leaders of Troy must devise a path forward. Is conflict necessary, and would it be fatal for Troy?

VII. Country Positions OR Individual Positions

GMUNC XIII, Trojan War: Troy, Background Guide

Position Name or Title	Description
Aneas	A Trojan noble and warrior.
Agenor	A Trojan warrior and nobleman.
Princess Andromache	A princess of Troy, and the wife of Crown Prince Hector.
Antenor	A well-known Trojan elder and the advisor and diplomatic strategist for King Priam.
Aphrodite	The Olympian goddess of love and beauty.
Apollo	The Olympian god of archery, prophecy, and plague.
Ares	The Olympian god of war.
Artemis	The Olympian goddess of the hunt and the wild.
Prince Deiphobus	A warrior and a prince of Troy.
Dolon	A Trojan warrior and spy.
Glaucus	A Lycian prince and leader.
Prince Hector	The crown prince of Troy.
Queen Hecuba	The queen of Troy and the wife of King Priam.
Prince Helenus (also known as Scamandrius)	A prince of Troy.
Hicetaon	A Trojan elder and the brother of King Priam.
King Memnon	The King of Ethiopia.
Mesthles	A Maeonian commander.
Pandarus	A Trojan warrior and archer.

Prince Paris	The Trojan Prince who abducted Helen.
Queen Penthesilea	The Queen of the Amazons.
Phorcys	A Phrygian military commander.
Polydamas	A Trojan commander and strategist.
King Priam	The King of Troy, and the husband of Queen Hecuba.
King Rhesus	The King of Thrace.
King Sarpedon	The King of Lycia, and a son of Zeus.
Scamander (also referred to as Xanthus)	The God of the Scamander River bordering Troy.

VIII. Questions to Consider

- Should the Trojan council pursue military action to retaliate against the Greek forces, prepare a military defense, or attempt to solve the conflict with diplomacy and reconciliation?
- Given that Trojan citizens are currently unaware of the impending threat, how and when should this information be disclosed? How will this council prevent mass panic?
- What citizen or civilian participation would be needed to prepare the city and army for the Greek attack?
- How can Troy ensure the continued support of foreign allies while under attack?
- As a city dependent on maritime trade, how will Troy secure food, water, weapons, and other supplies with the Greek navy in the Dardanelles Strait?
- Is the preservation of Troy's honor and Paris' marriage to Heelen worth the potential destruction of the city? Under what conditions, if any, would the council consider returning Helen to Menelaus?
- Considering the anger of multiple goddesses against Troy or Paris, should this council make attempts to appease them? If so, how?

IX. Goals for Committee

- Preserve the city of Troy and its sovereignty.
- Maintain foreign support and alliances.
- Secure trade networks and imports.
- Conserve national stability and prevent civilian unrest.
- Negotiate a sustainable peace agreement with the Greeks.

X. Suggested Reading

Reading these sources is not required for the committee or positions papers, but can help delegates gain a better understanding of the committee topic or of their position.

- *Mythology: Timeless Tales of Gods and Heroes* by Edith Hamilton
- Southern Connecticut State University Classical Mythology Resources
 - <https://libguides.southernct.edu/mythology/websites>

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