



# The Last Days of Pompeii

UGAMUNC 30

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## Letter from the Chairs

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to UGAMUNC 30! My name is Aly Pabani, and I have the absolute honor and pleasure of being your chair for the UGAMUNC Pompeii Crisis Committee. I'm from Suwanee, Georgia, and I am a sophomore with a dual major in Computer Science and Psychology here at the University of Georgia. I love video games and computers, as well as hanging out with friends! Model UN has been one of my favorite experiences ever, and Model UN at UGA has really helped me further develop my speaking skills as well as brought me some fun experiences I will never forget. Outside of MUN, I really enjoy playing badminton, skiing, and watching movies and TV shows with friends.

Welcome Delegates,

My name is Cooper Davis, and I am so happy to be your co-chair for the UGAMUNC Pompeii Crisis Committee. While I grew up in Alpharetta, Georgia, I moved to London in 2019 where I completed my high school diploma. I am a first year student with a dual major in political science and international affairs at UGA. I love playing music and instruments, as well as rock climbing and spending time with friends. I have been a part of MUN for over four years, which has allowed me to travel to several different countries for amazing conferences, where I have had the opportunity to meet new people from all over the world. I have made lifelong friends and connections that are immensely valuable to me. I can't wait to meet and get to know all of you!

Hello Delegates,

My name is Jessica Sobieski, and I will be your Crisis Director for the Last Days of Pompeii crisis simulation. I am a third year student at the University of Georgia, where I study international relations and Russian. This is my third year on the UGA MUN team, and I am thankful to the UGA team for some of my favorite friends and memories. In my free time, I enjoy reading, finding coffee shops, spending time outdoors, and chatting with my friends. I wish you the best of luck, and I am excited to have an exciting weekend together exploring what might have happened during the last days of Pompeii.

Please reach out to the Crisis Director, Jessica Sobieski, with any questions on the Crisis conference model. She will be happy to provide any extra materials needed to prepare for the conference. Please feel free to contact us with any questions you may have, and send us any questions you may have, we would be happy to respond and help you out!

Best of luck escaping during the last days of Pompeii.

Best Regards, and Stay Safe,

Aly Pabani, Cooper Davis, and Jessica Sobieski  
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### **Sensitivity Statement**

As you conduct research and prepare to attend our conference, please remember to be respectful and mindful of different cultures, traditions, religions, and more. Here at the University of Georgia, we do not tolerate any form of discrimination. As a standard, follow the Western business attire dress code, do not imitate accents when speaking, and do not bring props. Treat your fellow delegates with the utmost respect, regardless of differences in ability, age, culture and ethnicity, gender identity, national origin, race, religion, and sexual orientation. Please keep this in mind, whether it's the ideas discussed during debate or the content of your papers.

Additionally, cheating by pre-writing or other measures such as the use of AI (ChatGPT, Google Bard, Grammarly AI, etc.) will not be allowed, as it not only provides certain delegates with unfair advantages, but also takes away from the passion, personality, and effort that each delegate puts into their ideas and works. The use of AI to write notes, speeches, or papers in committee is strictly forbidden.

In short, please conduct yourself in a respectful and professional manner. If instances of racism, sexism, homophobia, xenophobia, etc. ever arise during committee, please let us know so that we can handle the situation and create a safe and welcoming environment for everyone. Furthermore, if our staff determine that you have violated our code of conduct, or that you have committed any aforementioned forbidden activities such as prewriting, accent imitation, or racism, we reserve the right to disqualify you from UGAMUNC 30.

## Rules and Procedure

Crisis Committee:

While other delegates at UGAMUNC may be placed in traditional General Assembly-style Model United Nations committees, The Pompeii Committee at UGAMUNC will run as a crisis-style committee. While you should still familiarize yourself with the UGAMUNC Rules and Procedure document to brush up on parliamentary procedure, this committee will vary from the typical format. Please familiarize yourself with the following rules specific to this committee, and once again, if you have any questions, feel free to reach out to your chair or co-chair

**Chair:** [aly.pabani@uga.edu](mailto:aly.pabani@uga.edu)

**Co-chair:** [cmd78841@uga.edu](mailto:cmd78841@uga.edu)

**Magic is allowed in this committee. The committee is set in the historical period of Pompeii, and at the time, people were highly superstitious and religious. That means the pantheons of gods, magic, time, and chaos are all fair game.** As this committee progresses, you will have the opportunity to communicate with the unseen and the unknown to further your progress and your overall ability. As much is not known about the history of Pompeii, save records and the remains of the destruction, we would like for you to use your creativity to weave a narrative for this story. All solutions are available, and the backroom will be more than willing to help you along that quest. All characters in this committee will be attached to a patron god/goddess who does not have to be the only god you communicate with in this committee!

**Utilize crisis notes to accomplish your goals in committee and craft your crisis arc.** While the main method of negotiation in a typical General Assembly-style committee stems from typical speaking time, in a crisis committee, much of the work you do will be on your own through crisis notes. These are letters that your character will write to crisis, a body outside of the committee room, to accomplish something without the committee's knowledge. A good crisis note not only explains, in detail, what to do, but it also explains very specifically how to do it. These notes will be addressed to a fictional person who has some relation to your character. "Crisis" (UGAMUNC staff and your crisis director) will answer these notes as if they were this fictional person, responding as that person would under the circumstances from the context you set out. Only address a note to "Crisis" if you have a question about the way the committee is going.

**Because this is a crisis-style committee, write directives, not resolutions.** Although they are very similar, directives are the typical formal paper written in a crisis committee, not resolutions. Directives are less formal, are normally titled, and are generally more straightforward. They are intended to utilize the powers present in the committee to quickly address the crisis at hand or any related issues.

**Represent your understanding of your character.** This is a fictional crisis committee, but all of these characters have a wealth of lore and character development within their

respective films. Use this to your advantage; do some research! Each character is unique and therefore has their own goals and relationships among members of the committee. That said, be sure to represent your character's beliefs and not simply your own. While you may not be prepared for the updates that crisis will present to you, you can at least understand the character you have been assigned and react to the crisis in the way they would.

**This committee is in English only.** Even if you can speak the same language as your character, there will be no advantage given to any delegate who chooses to write crisis notes or give speeches in that language. While we certainly respect the commitment to character-based accuracy, we don't want to exclude other delegates in the committee who may not speak that language (including your chairs and crisis writers).

Most importantly, **have fun!!!** While this may be an educational event, Model UN can be a really fun and engaging experience!

## Background Information

Pompeii, an ancient Roman city located near modern Naples in the Campania region of Italy, has a rich and vibrant history dating back to the 6th century BC. From its establishment as a prosperous trading port to its catastrophic destruction by the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD, Pompeii remains an enduring symbol of ancient Roman civilization and a testament to the impact of natural disasters on human settlements. Here is a comprehensive historical overview of the city:

- I. **Early Settlement and Growth (6th - 5th Century BC):** Founded around the 6th century BC by the Oscans, an Italic tribe, Pompeii was initially a small agricultural community. However, due to its strategic location near the Bay of Naples, it soon developed into a significant port and trading center, facilitating trade with other Mediterranean civilizations.
- II. **Greek and Roman Influence (4th - 2nd Century BC):** In the 4th century BC, Pompeii came under the influence of Greek culture as the Greek colonies expanded in southern Italy. However, in the 2nd century BC, the city fell under Roman domination during the Samnite Wars, becoming an essential ally of the expanding Roman Republic.
  - A. **Art and Architecture:** During the 4th century BC, the Greek colonies in southern Italy had a profound impact on Pompeii's art and architecture. Greek artistic styles, including the use of columns, frescoes, and mosaics, were adopted and adapted by the Pompeian craftsmen, leading to the incorporation of Hellenistic elements into the city's buildings and decorative art.
  - B. **Cultural Exchange:** The Greek influence extended beyond art and architecture, encompassing various aspects of daily life, including language, religion, and philosophy. Greek deities and religious practices were assimilated into the local religious landscape, resulting in the construction of Greek-style temples and the worship of both Greek and Roman gods in Pompeii.
  - C. **Trade and Commerce:** The Greek influence also contributed to the expansion of trade and commerce in Pompeii, facilitating the exchange of goods and cultural ideas between the Greek colonies and other Mediterranean civilizations. This exchange bolstered the city's economic prosperity and established it as a crucial hub for trade in the region.
- III. **Roman Prosperity and Urban Development (2nd Century BC - 1st Century AD):** Under Roman rule, Pompeii flourished as a prosperous and cosmopolitan city, boasting elegant villas, public baths, an amphitheater, and numerous temples. The city's population grew, and it became renowned for its production of wine, olive oil, and other agricultural goods.
  - A. **Urban Planning and Infrastructure:** After the Roman conquest in the 2nd century BC, Pompeii underwent extensive urban planning and development. Roman architects and engineers introduced advanced city planning techniques,

constructing aqueducts, public baths, amphitheaters, and forums that reflected the grandeur and organization of the Roman Empire.

**B. Social Structure and Governance:** The Roman influence reshaped the social structure and governance of Pompeii. The city became integrated into the Roman administrative system, adopting Roman legal practices, social norms, and political institutions. This integration fostered a sense of Roman identity among the Pompeian population.

**C. Cultural Assimilation:** The Romans encouraged the assimilation of local cultures into their own, resulting in a blend of Roman and indigenous traditions. This fusion of cultures is evident in the architectural styles, religious practices, and artistic expressions found throughout the city, showcasing the synthesis of Greek, Italic, and Roman influences.

**IV. The Catastrophic Eruption of Mount Vesuvius (79 AD):** The most significant event in Pompeii's history occurred in 79 AD when Mount Vesuvius, the nearby volcano, erupted, burying the city under layers of ash and pumice. The eruption resulted in the tragic loss of thousands of lives and the preservation of the city's structures, artifacts, and even human remains, providing invaluable insights into ancient Roman life and culture for contemporary archaeologists and historians. Here is a detailed timeline of the events leading up to and during the eruption:

**A. Preliminary Signs of Activity:** Several days before the eruption, there were signs of seismic activity and ground tremors around Mount Vesuvius, indicating an impending volcanic event. Fountains of molten rock and ash began spewing from the volcano's crater, foreshadowing the catastrophic eruption that would follow.

**B. Early Morning of August 24, 79 AD:** The eruption began in the early morning, with a colossal column of ash, rock, and volcanic gases shooting up to an estimated height of around 33 kilometers (20 miles) into the atmosphere.

**C. Pumice and Ash Fall:** Within hours, a heavy shower of pumice and ash began to rain down on the surrounding area, blanketing the cities of Pompeii and Herculaneum in a thick layer of volcanic debris. The intense heat and pressure generated by the eruption caused pyroclastic flows and surges, which swiftly engulfed the cities, burying them under meters of ash and volcanic material.

**D. Destruction of Pompeii and Herculaneum:** The fast-moving pyroclastic flows engulfed and incinerated the inhabitants of both Pompeii and Herculaneum, leading to the tragic loss of thousands of lives. The cities were effectively frozen in time, preserving their structures, artifacts, and even the remains of the inhabitants, providing invaluable insights into ancient Roman life for future generations.



- E. Subsequent Phases of the Eruption:** Over the following days, additional eruptions and pyroclastic surges occurred, causing further destruction and altering the landscape of the region. The ongoing volcanic activity resulted in the formation of new volcanic deposits and altered the topography of the Bay of Naples and the surrounding areas.
- F. Long-Term Impact:** The eruption of Mount Vesuvius had a lasting impact on the region, leading to the abandonment and eventual burial of several settlements, including Pompeii and Herculaneum. The disaster transformed the landscape and ecology of the Bay of Naples, leaving behind a volcanic crater that remains active to this day.

### Things to Know

The committee will be operating in a unique setting where historical events leading up to the eruption of Mount Vesuvius in 79 AD will be intertwined with elements of fantasy and imagination. Delegates are encouraged to creatively explore the possibilities of alternate historical narratives and mythical influences in the context of ancient Pompeii. Prior to the eruption, Pompeii was a bustling Roman city with a diverse population and a rich cultural tapestry. Delegates should be familiar with the social structure, religious beliefs, and everyday life of ancient Romans while considering the infusion of fantastical elements such as mythical creatures, magic, or divine interventions that might shape the committee's narrative. Understanding the geological and historical significance of Mount Vesuvius is crucial. Delegates should be aware of the volcano's impact on the region's topography, its historical eruptions, and the ways in which its activity shaped the ancient world. Additionally, delving into fictional aspects like the presence of magical forces or ancient prophecies associated with the volcano can add depth to the narrative. Delving into the rich tapestry of Roman mythology and folklore is essential. Delegates should explore the stories of Roman gods and goddesses, mythical creatures, and legendary heroes, considering how these elements might influence the committee's discussions and the fate of the city in the context of the impending disaster. Roman politics and power dynamics played a crucial role in shaping the destiny of Pompeii. Delegates should be well-versed in the political structure of the Roman Empire, the influence of prominent figures, and the societal tensions that existed at the time. Incorporating fictional political intrigues, magical factions, or secret societies could add an intriguing layer to the committee's narrative.

## Starting Crisis

The society around Pompeii and Herculaneum exists in a delicate balance, with the imposing silhouette of Mount Vesuvius serving as a constant reminder of the unpredictable forces of nature. Daily life carries on amidst the bustling streets and vibrant marketplaces, where merchants, artisans, and citizens mingle, oblivious to the impending catastrophe. As delegates, you are among the few who have begun to discern the subtle signs of an impending disaster, a foreboding realization that sets you apart from the rest of the community.

- 1. Heightened Concerns and Mysterious Occurrences:** The sudden appearance of smoke billowing from the summit of Mount Vesuvius has stirred whispers of unease among the populace. The sky is tainted with an ominous haze, casting an eerie shadow over the once idyllic landscape. The tremors, initially dismissed as minor disturbances, have intensified, causing structural damage to homes and injuries to the unsuspecting residents. Amidst the chaos, you and a select few recognize the gravity of the situation, foreseeing the cataclysmic events that may soon befall your beloved city.
- 2. The Voice of Warning Amidst Disbelief:** Despite your efforts to raise awareness about the impending calamity, most people remain unconvinced, choosing to dismiss the mounting evidence as natural anomalies. Friends and neighbors regard your warnings with skepticism, branding you as alarmists or even heretics, unwilling to accept the grim reality of the situation. As the tension between your beliefs and the prevailing skepticism heightens, you find solace and solidarity among those who share your apprehensions. Together, you form a small but determined group committed to preparing for the worst, even as the rest of society continues to embrace the illusion of normalcy.

**Please remember, this is a collaborative committee! There can be only one path to escape, and you must work together to get there!**

**What awaits you if you cannot escape?**



## Character Dossier

1. **Lucius Octavius:** Lucius is a seasoned statesman known for his unwavering dedication to the well-being of the people of Pompeii. He is respected for his shrewd leadership and foresight, qualities he believes are bestowed upon him by his patron deity, Jupiter. Lucius's commitment to protecting the city extends beyond the immediate crisis, as he envisions a prosperous future rebuilt from the ashes.
2. **Aurelia Atticus:** Aurelia's intricate pottery and sculptures are renowned throughout the region, reflecting her meticulous craftsmanship and devotion to Minerva's wisdom and creativity. Her studio has become a sanctuary where the townspeople seek solace and hope in the face of the impending disaster. Aurelia's resilience and artistic vision inspire others to find beauty amidst the looming chaos.
3. **Valerius Maximus:** Valerius's military prowess and unwavering commitment to defending the city stem from a deep-seated belief in Mars's protection and valor. As the tremors intensify, he mobilizes a group of volunteers to fortify the city's defenses, hoping to shield the vulnerable population from the impending catastrophe.
4. **Caius Flavius:** Caius's intimate connection with the sea and its bounties is rooted in his reverence for Neptune's domain. As he witnesses the sea's turbulent behavior, he works tirelessly to warn fellow fishermen and sailors of the looming peril, fostering a sense of solidarity among those whose livelihoods depend on the waters.
5. **Aelia Marcellus:** Aelia's unwavering dedication to tending the sacred fire of Vesta reflects her deep spiritual connection to the goddess. Her role as the custodian of the city's spiritual flame assumes greater significance as the impending disaster threatens to engulf the city, and she remains steadfast in her devotion to preserving the sacred hearth.
6. **Ophelia Serapis:** Ophelia's profound knowledge of herbal medicine and healing arts, combined with her devotion to Isis, drives her to offer solace and aid to the afflicted and injured. She tirelessly tends to the physical and emotional needs of those affected by the disaster, invoking the blessings of her patron goddess to guide her through the crisis.
7. **Helena Caelius:** Helena's adeptness with the bow and her communion with nature under Diana's tutelage make her an indispensable protector of the city. She leads scouting parties to assess the threat posed by the volcanic activity, channeling her divine connection to the hunt into a mission to safeguard the lives of her fellow citizens.
8. **Livia Tiberius:** Livia's grace and sophistication as a noblewoman are complemented by her steadfast devotion to Juno, whom she believes guides her family's destiny. In the face of the mounting crisis, Livia navigates the precarious social and political landscape, leveraging her influence to rally support for the city's preparedness and evacuation efforts.

9. **Helios Castor:** Helios's agility and eloquence as a messenger are attributed to the swift guidance of Hermes. As he races through the streets, warning residents of the impending catastrophe, he invokes the protection of his patron god, hoping that his urgent messages will reach the ears of the heedless before it's too late.
10. **Agrippa Corpus:** Marcus's drive to politics came at a cost to him and his family. The more he prays to his family's patron deities, Aeacus, Minos, and Rhadamanthus of the underworld, the more strict and judgmental he becomes. As a judge, he often weighs the scales of good and evil, just and unjust, and right and wrong. He will have to use this power to help save the city he loves so much.
11. **Xiao Wei:** Xiao Wei's strong connection to the land and the rhythms of nature, guided by Yu Shi, fuels his determination to protect his family and fellow farmers. He utilizes his knowledge of the earth's signs to prepare the fields for the inevitable disruption, ensuring that his community will have a fighting chance for survival during the impending crisis.
12. **Octavia Pompeius:** Octavia's deep understanding of agricultural practices and the sacred rites dedicated to Ceres make her a linchpin in the city's food security efforts. She leads a team of farmers in safeguarding the region's crops, employing rituals and incantations to appease the goddess of agriculture and fertility, in the hopes of securing a bountiful harvest even in the face of impending doom.
13. **Aurelius Vespasian:** Aurelius's mastery of the blacksmith's forge and his unwavering devotion to Vulcan drive him to fashion formidable weapons and fortifications. As the threat of destruction looms, he tirelessly works to create an arsenal that will fortify the city's defenses, channeling the transformative powers of his patron god into instruments of protection and resilience.
14. **Heraclius Achilles:** Heraclius's fierce prowess as a gladiator and his unwavering allegiance to Ares compel him to view the impending catastrophe as an opportunity for heroism and glory. He rallies a band of volunteers, preparing them for the trials of battle that await, instilling in them the valor and determination required to face the challenges ahead.
15. **Caelina Remus:** Caelina's daring and risk-taking nature in her gambling pursuits reflect her reliance on Fortuna's capricious favor. Even as the threat of disaster looms, she continues to take calculated risks, believing that her luck will see her through the impending chaos and emerge unscathed, viewing the catastrophe as another game of chance in which she must emerge victorious.
16. **Cassius Aemilius:** Cassius's solemn duties as a grave digger and his reverence for Pluto imbue him with a somber understanding of life's transient nature. As the city prepares for the disaster, he meticulously plans and prepares the final resting places for those who may succumb to the impending calamity, understanding the cyclical nature of life and death as ordained by his patron god.

17. **Calista Demetriou:** Calista is often on the outskirts of town doing mysterious and interesting rituals for her patron deity, Nyx. This gives her power at night and allows her to conduct much of the work that keeps her afloat during the witching hours. While she often travels from place to place, she feels as though Pompeii is her home and is willing to do what is needed to help the rest of the citizens.
18. **Adriana Marcus:** Adriana's valiant service as a courageous soldier and her fervent devotion to Bellona inspire her to lead the city's defense efforts. She organizes a disciplined militia, preparing them for the oncoming challenges, and invokes the blessings of her patron goddess to grant her the strength and fortitude needed to protect the people of Pompeii.
19. **Emi Takahashi:** Emi's wisdom and compassion as a revered herbalist and elder within the Japanese community are guided by her deep connection to Amaterasu. She imparts her knowledge of natural remedies and spiritual practices to help her community prepare for the impending disaster, relying on her unwavering faith in the sun goddess to guide them through the darkness.
20. **Hiroto Nakamura:** Hiroto's deep meditative practices and his intimate communion with the elements, under the guidance of Susano-o, lead him to seek isolation in the mountains. He dedicates his days to meditating and seeking divine guidance, preparing himself to act as a spiritual guide for those who may seek