

D'oh! Homer :  
The Great Springfield Energy Crisis



Emory National Model United  
Nations Conference IV  
Crisis Committee

# Table of Contents

**Letter from the Chair.....2**

**Respect Policy.....3**

**Background.....6**

    I. Springfield..... 6

    II. Recent Events..... 8

    III. Town Response..... 9

**Current State of Committee.....12**

**Questions to Consider.....13**

**Characters.....14**

# Letter from the Chair

Dear Delegates of ENMUNC IV,

Welcome to ENMUNC! My name is Mac Fabens and I'm from Brooklyn, New York City. I'm a second year student at Emory University majoring in Economics and International Studies, though aside from that I'm drawn to most subjects related to the environment. I like paying attention to the news, running, baking, knitting, canoeing, and, as of late, reading. I joined Model UN for the first time at Emory and have since learned the ropes of Crisis and even come to enjoy it. My hope is that for those of you new to Crisis, you can have a fun introduction, where MUN feels more like a game. I know how challenging new formats can be, but I'm hoping I can ease some of the stress with a cartoon-world Crisis that rewards creative thinking and diplomacy. I'm excited to see how this committee progresses throughout the weekend, particularly the differences between the first and last session. One thing I love about Model UN, and Crisis in general, is the ability to change your made-up world throughout the weekend. Furthermore, I always find it fun to push my creativity to its limits by the end of the weekend, asking myself—what is the most random and strange, yet feasible, note or directive I can convince this room of people to pass?

Throughout the weekend, I will be encouraging creativity and “out-there” actions in committee, but not at the cost of debate. I'm hoping to have events, scenarios, and arcs that create exciting and engaging problems. In-room, I expect there to be a different array of proposals to tackle these various problems. Committee sessions always go by faster when people are at odds while leaving room for debate. As such, if unanimous directives are consistently being passed, I'll look favorably upon divisive action.

That being said, this committee is supposed to be lighthearted and fun. At the end of the day, we're in a world where quite literally anything is possible and there's already easily

recognizable characters, running jokes, and entertaining establishments. Think about it this way: the writers of *The Simpsons* can make anything they want happen each episode, and in one sense you're writing an episode. You don't have to study the show and learn what happened in every episode to do well in this committee, and we will not be adhering to the actual happenings of the show. Given the norms of Model UN, the conference is 100% what you make of it, and my aim in this committee is to provide you with a setting where you can enjoy it. Expect a creative and fast-paced room where you're consistently being given the opportunity and incentive to push towards whichever solution you want to see implemented, in whichever way you want.

If you have any questions or concerns, feel free to email me at [mac.fabens@emory.edu](mailto:mac.fabens@emory.edu). I'm excited to see where you all take the Town of Springfield, and what new ideas you come up with!

Best,

Mac

# Respect Policy

By nature, the content of the works guiding *D'oh! Homer* may present delegates with sensitive topics, as *The Simpsons* creates a fair share of characters, episodes, and bits fitting stereotypical and harmful societal roles. As this committee lives within that world and is quite free-form, it is not impossible that those parts of the show, or other sensitive topics, may be brought into committee. While delegates will not be punished for using characters or happenings from the show, they are expected to show respect and stay far away from any representation of characters or conduct that could be deemed harmful to someone's identity. Any delegate who displays blatant disrespectful or harmful behavior, or who continues to make other delegates uncomfortable after receiving a warning from the CD, chair, or a staffer, will face appropriate consequences as outlined by the ENMUNC IV Conduct Code. It is true that in *The Simpsons* world in which this committee is set, it might be in some character's nature to make harmful statements or represent harmful stereotypes, but you will not be penalized from deviating from your position to maintain respect.

Furthermore, from a general ENMUNC IV standpoint, we expect all delegates to conduct themselves in a professional manner and to be respectful to staff and other delegates. There will be a zero tolerance policy for any discrimination based on race, gender, age, sexual orientation, ethnicity, ability, religion, or political beliefs. Should you encounter any discrimination please contact your chair, CD, or a member of the secretariat to address and handle the situation. Furthermore, pre-writing, unauthorized use of technology, or using AI software is strictly prohibited.

Your crisis director and chair want to first and foremost prioritize your well-being. If at any point the contents of the committee or the actions of another delegate make you uncomfortable, you are encouraged to send a note to the dais and step out of the room as

needed. This extends to any needs you might have over the course of the committee; we will never penalize you for eating a snack, drinking water, or taking a quick restroom break. We are here to support you, and we hope that you will grant us the same respect we grant you.

# Background

## Springfield

*The Simpsons* is set in Springfield, USA. While many have tried to track down the true location of Springfield or a real-life town that it could be based off of, *The Simpsons* creators have consistently denied that such a place exists. Really, Springfield is meant to be “Anytown, USA,” or a stereotypical American town that could be picked up, placed anywhere,



and be just the same. To that end, this committee is simply placed in the town of Springfield, as represented by *The Simpsons*. It should also be noted that Springfield is a rather malleable place. The location and surrounding geography can be changed like magic, as is done frequently in the show – for instance, one day there may be mountains near Springfield, the next day there may not be. Remember that Springfield is in a cartoon world with cartoon attributes, in real life a nuclear power plant explosion would take out a whole town. In Springfield, however, there’s just a comically round crater at the site of the explosion. I encourage you to take this into account for committee and when you can, use it to your advantage.

With Springfield as just a stereotypical American town, the laws of the constitution apply. While the town may legislate or take action contrary to The Constitution or federal

law, this means that any actor can alert the government of such an action, resulting in legal action by the state. In the absence of a whistleblower alerting the federal government of illegal action on behalf of Springfield, however, the authorities will turn a blind eye to anything the town of Springfield does.

I would caution against taking the courts of Springfield too seriously, though. Little or no evidence is often needed to convict people, and the events that unfold following court cases are often quite random. Take S4 E21 as an example: Marge is accused of shoplifting and is immediately arrested, then convicted without evidence. Due to her absence at a town bake sale, the town can't afford a Lincoln statue and are forced to buy a Jimmy Carter statue instead. Because the citizens preferred a Lincoln statue, they rioted and took down the Carter statue, using it as a battering ram to break down the doors to the police station. The police in this episode are helpless, as Chief Wiggum's police dogs are poorly trained and attack him instead of the rioters. This description isn't to say that delegates should rely on police being ineffective to write directives or notes, but rather that Springfield is a flexible, silly place without a whole lot of reason.

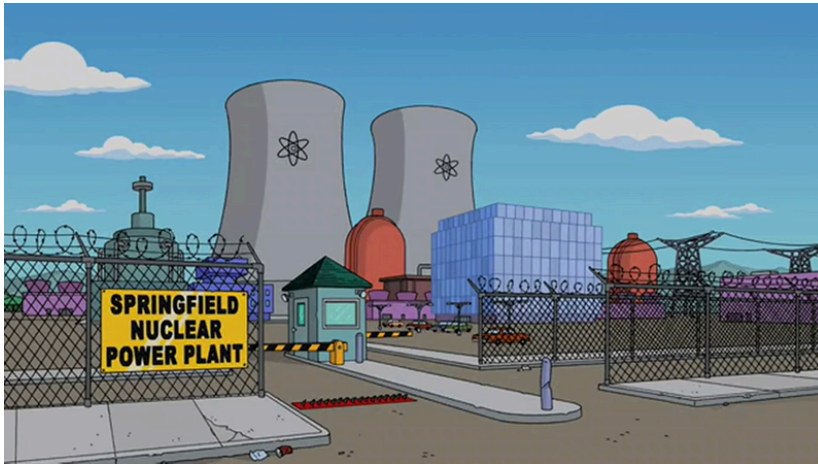
As evidenced by the previous paragraph, there's no clear logic to Springfield criminal cases. To represent this in committee, proposed trials will need specificity, creativity, and a strong claim to have a chance at passing in the backroom. The use of prosecution isn't discouraged, but should contribute to the flow of committee and appropriately serve your character's arc!





## Recent Events

While it may seem that Springfield is a no-trouble, smooth-sailing town, there have been some distressing events recently. One such event occurred just three days prior to



the start of committee: a mysterious and devastating nuclear meltdown caused by an unknown suspect.

Homer has worked at Mr. Burns' nuclear power facility, which provides 100% of Springfield's energy, for quite some time. As a dubiously certified control room operator, his job is to prevent a nuclear meltdown from happening at the plant. Nevertheless, he has somehow allowed one to happen. While the actual cause of the meltdown is unknown, many have begun pointing fingers at Homer for not overseeing the plant's control room properly, and, therefore, being at least partially responsible for the meltdown. What exactly happened and who exactly was responsible remains unclear and will have to be revealed through an investigation of sorts. Delegates may carry out an investigation through whichever avenues they please, given that they draw upon sufficient resources and circumstance. It should be noted as well that Homer's whereabouts remain unknown, however, miraculously nobody has gone looking for him yet.

Due to faulty safety mechanisms at the plant, four workers died in the meltdown. They have remained unnamed, and the only organizations that have displayed any concern for the deaths are the families of the victims. However, due to Springfield's lack of

power, the information that there were deaths involved hasn't traveled very far. The other workers at the plant during the meltdown are in mixed condition. About 20 workers are in critical condition under Dr. Hibbert's care, but it's unclear how long he can keep them alive in the absence of energy. Some 60 odd other workers are also injured, but because the hospital lacks resources they've been left to care for themselves. Symptoms include burns, radiation poisoning, nausea and extreme dehydration. The dehydration bit is also not being helped by Springfield's dwindling power.

The plant, which is only a few miles from Springfield city center, is completely gone, as one of the nuclear reactors inside exploded. Because the plant employed so many people, the meltdown has also resulted in mass unemployment in Springfield. Nobody has traveled to the site of the explosion since it happened, for fear of extreme radiation poisoning. Currently, strong winds have pushed most of the poisoning radiation away from Springfield and towards a nearby national forest, but there's no telling how long the unnaturally powerful winds will continue. Even as they do continue, frequent visitors of the national forest will soon notice the mysterious poisoning of the area and their own health. While people are afraid of the poisoning to come, nothing is being done to address its future potential spread.

## **Town Response**

There hasn't been anything done regarding the explosion. The mayor, Joe Quimby, has refused to call for Federal assistance, publicly stating that "We made this mess and we will clean it up ourselves!" His general reasoning in not calling for much-needed aid is that Springfield residents are strong-willed people who will not let a nuclear disaster define them. He adamantly believes that Springfield will rebuild and overcome the explosion. However, he has confided privately to some aides that the real reason he hasn't

called for federal assistance is the fear that any attention directed towards Springfield would result in outside media or the federal government discovering the rampant corruption present in his government. In fact, many members of this very committee would be implicated



and dragged down with Quimby, should there be any federal investigation into Springfield's governance. If you dig far at all into the government's distribution of town permits or licenses, you'll find that most prices are unreasonably high and that payments invariably go to bank accounts belonging to different town council members. Looking at those accounts, you'll quickly find large sums of money being paid to Mayor Quimby's aunt. There are also gaps in the taxes Springfield collects and the taxes Springfield pays to the state, raising questions about where taxpayer dollars are going. The final immediately obvious corruption is the fact that while Springfield's jail facilities are falling into disrepair and putting inmates' lives in peril, the Police Department's so-called "Donut Budget" is rapidly growing, and the Springfield donut industry is flourishing in a golden age. The pervasiveness of this corruption is a principal reason why the town council, too, has not called for federal assistance.

This fear of calling for federal assistance, coupled with Springfield's lack of large resources, has created a seriously destitute environment for the town. The mayor's office

has taken no action, encouraging residents to purchase generators and figure out their own energy solutions. However, this method of dealing with the crisis by pretending it doesn't exist can't continue for long. Residents are already beginning to run out of perishable food, with the supermarket running out of energy, and thus fresh food. Basic infrastructure has carried on thus far on backup energy but will run out within a few days. As soon as basic infrastructure, such as water and sewage systems, collapse, Springfield will be in a true state of everyone for themselves. There hasn't been any major demonstrations or backlash for the government's lack of action, or the actual fact that the plant exploded, as people have just been trying to figure out their own living situations and care for their families. As resources run out and people stabilize, civil unrest in Springfield is expected to grow. Many residents have begun calling for someone to be punished for the disaster, and those demands are also expected to increase.

## Current State of Committee

Due to the mayor's lack of action, you all (the Springfield town council) have decided to hold secret meetings on how to deal with the crisis presented to you. That is where you find yourself now, as a delegate playing a Simpsons character. The structure of the town council means that a simple majority vote by the council will be taken as law and carried out by the relevant Springfield authorities. While the mayor can veto council rulings, a 2/3 majority vote will override his veto. The mayor is unlikely to veto anything that won't directly affect or implicate him—however, Quimby is also known to be unpredictable as a leader. As the town council, many citizens are looking to you guys for leadership. Really, because of the apparent unfitness of the mayor, the future of Springfield lies in your hands.

I should also add that this committee takes place in the current day, with current day circumstances. So whether or not they are relevant to this committee, you should assume that any current-day problems are present in this committee as well—particularly climate change. Due to the circumstances surrounding energy today, this issue adds extra stakes to the fact that a town's source of clean energy just disappeared.



## Questions to Consider

1. How will Springfield get the power needed to sustain itself, now that the plant is gone?  
From what source?
2. Should the town of Springfield ask for federal assistance, which would provide aid to residents? Are there any other avenues to go through for assistance?
3. Should Homer be punished for the meltdown of the plant even though no culprit has been found yet? Should anyone?
4. How can the town council ensure that Springfield residents remain fed and have adequate access to water and other necessities, given the unavailability of fresh foods at supermarkets?
5. Should we be worried about the possibility of nuclear radiation slowly killing all of Springfield?
6. How should Springfield tackle its new problem of mass unemployment?
7. The mayor has shown signs of being quite powerful, but also unfit for office. Should the town council do anything about this? Who, if anyone, could replace him?
8. How can we prevent the new pollution of the nearby national forest from ruining Springfield's reputation?

# Characters

## 1. Lisa Simpson

Lisa is Homer's daughter, and also an established environmentalist. While she is just a child, she has still managed to be elected to the town council, highlighting her smarts. She is extremely worried about how the meltdown might affect the surrounding wildlife and human health. It is unknown how other kids feel about the issue, but she is the closest thing the children of Springfield have to a collective voice.

## 2. Mr. Burns

Mr. Burns is the owner of the plant, and made much of his large fortune from it. Due to this loss of an asset, he is currently in mourning and anxious to capitalize on whatever comes next for Springfield. Many are wondering what form of justice he will call for in this disaster. He lost a huge amount in the ordeal, but it is also possible that the meltdown happened as a result of faulty oversight at his plant. Whatever happens, his immense wealth and political connections are likely to ensure that he turns out okay.

## 3. Ned Flanders

A devout Christian, Ned Flanders is a huge advocate for justice. A family man, he is worried too for his family—how will he support them? Due to his position as a family man, Ned can very easily appeal to parents anywhere with his easygoing attitude. Known to be an absolute moral authority, Ned is one of those people who, should he try hard enough, could find himself with a strong following of supporters. Frightened and angry that a meltdown could be allowed to happen, his people skills could play a big role in the town's perception of a meltdown if used correctly.

#### **4. Sideshow Bob**

Sideshow Bob is a Yale graduate and former employee of Krusty the Clown, though he has claimed severe abuse from his time with Krusty. Through a failed framing attempt, he has ended up an enemy of both Bart Simpson and Krusty. Sideshow Bob often hatches plans involving violence, and is particularly prone to taking brutal actions. While his stance on this issue is unknown, council members should know that Sideshow Bob is not afraid to resort to violence in order to get his way.

#### **5. Krusty the Clown**

Krusty the Clown is a man of entertainment and clownery. His primary source of joy and income, maintains that anything bad for the entertainment industry is bad for him. He is seeing low demand for his services, given the fraught times Springfield is in. However, he is also a beacon of light for many, particularly children. Due to his ability to captivate large audiences through humor, he is a rather important figure for Springfield's public. He is a frequent entertainer of the mayor, as well.

#### **6. Barney Gumble**

Barney Gumble was formerly employed at the plant and is now facing unemployment, serving as a large voice for those who are, as a result of the meltdown, newly unemployed. Because this number of people is so huge, Barney is in a unique position to deliver news to and fight for those who are unemployed as a result of the meltdown. Despite his heavy drinking habits, it is expected that he will represent this contingent effectively.

#### **7. Moe Szyslak**

The owner of a local bar, Moe has seen business plummet since the explosion and is furious about it. With a fiery temper, Moe is demanding that everything return to normal as soon as possible. As the lone supplier of alcohol in Springfield, Moe has a somewhat



outsized leverage on the population of Springfield. Who knows what kind of business he might reap, should he find a way to get the public interested in drinking again.

### **8. Principal Skinner**

As the principal of Springfield schools, Skinner just wants to see a return to normal, and a return to schooling. He has been furious at the lack of action for such a large disaster, and is ready to fight for any action at all to be taken. Because of his unique position in the department of education, he has federal contacts outside of Springfield. So far he has been stopped from asking for assistance to keep school open by two things—a lack of power and a fear of being connected to Quimby.

### **9. Chief Wiggum**

Perhaps second only to his buddy Quimby in corruption, Chief Wiggum is Springfield's police chief. He is friendly with most of Springfield and was the only one to go near the plant after the meltdown. He did so in order to block the entrance with caution tape. Wiggum has already had an increased number of calls and is working overtime to deal with the accident. He is afraid of possible unrest to come, but also wary of being too close to Quimby in case of scrutiny. More importantly, as Springfield's only police chief he has a great deal of influence—though not absolute—over investigations or possible arrests made in connection to the plant.

### **10. Kent Brockman**

The only news anchor in Springfield, Kent Brockman is a recognizable figure for citizens and provides reliable stories. While he has been off air since the incident, due to the lack of power, he has taken to writing the news in an old-fashioned newspaper. Many citizens are confused as to what's going on right now, and Kent serves as a reliable and trusted

source of information for Springfield at this time. As a side note, ever since he opened a donut shop on main street he has only been seen wearing luxury brands...

### **11. Helen Lovejoy**

The gossipy wife of Reverend Lovejoy, Helen is seen as a rude citizen, but also one of the best Springfield authorities on morality and charity. She is always advocating for community initiatives, “the children,” and general public engagement. Since the incident, she has been working around the clock to help others, given her limited resources. As the head of many community organizations, she not only has the imperative but also the influence to call for more government action in this scenario.

### **12. Groundskeeper Willie**

To many, Willie is just the school groundskeeper. However, Willie is a hardcore environmentalist, likely to be extremely worried about the impact of nuclear waste on the environment. Willie may not have many friends, but he is the only council-member with in and out knowledge of the local environment; moreover, he is really the only one in Springfield who can tamper with it—whether that be for good or evil.

### **13. Marge Simpson**

The wife of Homer Simpson, Marge might have an interest in preventing an investigation into what, exactly, unfolded in the nuclear plant. However, it should be noted that Marge is a rather upright, friendly, and morally responsible person. This demeanor contributes to an overall aura of friendliness she has—it makes her someone who can draw upon most everyone in Springfield to help her when she needs it, and receive a friendly reply.

### **14. Dr. Hibbert**

Springfield’s much-loved doctor, Dr. Hibbert, has been overwhelmed with questions about radiation since the disaster. A staunch supporter of federal aid, he is wondering why

nothing has been done about the situation yet. Because of his role as Springfield's medical provider, he has a better voice than most in assessing Springfield's health. Also due to his role in Springfield's hospital, he controls the care that victims receive in the first place. In the absence of power though, he has deemed many operations unfeasible, potentially fueling unrest among sick citizens.

### **15. Fat Tony**

Fat Tony is the leader of Springfield's underground mafia. While he hasn't really been affected by the disaster, his luxurious lifestyle has, making him even angrier at the lack of fuel for his town. Because of his underworld connections, he has large reserves of unobservable resources—should the government find out about his underground empire, though, he could be easily prosecuted.

### **16. Edna Krabappel**

Edna is Ned Flanders' second wife and Bart Simpson's fourth-grade teacher. She began teaching because she wanted to help students in need, but has soured over many years teaching troublesome students like Bart, who repeatedly pranks her. After being fired from teaching once she opened a muffin shop, which also happens to make donuts. She was later re-hired. Edna is an avid Ned Flanders supporter and, as a teacher, holds significant power over what the children of Springfield learn about.

### **17. Nelson Muntz**

Known generally as Springfield's bully, Nelson is known for his iconic "Ha-ha" line and his consistent bullying of Springfield's other children. While normally cruel, he occasionally shows humanity under certain circumstances. Nelson didn't have a whole lot to lose in the meltdown but is happy to stir trouble—he sort of just sees the events as spicing things up and is happy to do so further however he wants.

### 18. Professor Frink

Professor Frink is Springfield's "mad scientist" who often makes inventions that are either useless or harmful. Nonetheless, he retains the respect of the town and is a revered intellectual. In a crisis like this there are many who are counting on him to provide scientific insights, and if anyone were to do it he's certainly one to try. One thing to note is that ever since joining Quimby's administration, his inventions have grown more advanced, although it's hard to know why.

### 19. Sideshow Mel

Krusty's more reliable sidekick, Sideshow Mel is a clown with surprisingly immense wealth and an endless love for making others laugh. He is also often involved in Springfield riots, usually being the first to escalate them and leading the crowd to more violent action. He's angry that this meltdown could wreak such havoc on the entertainment industry and is itching for the chance at retribution, though who is deemed suitable for retribution is not very clear.

### 20. Lionel Hutz

Lionel Hutz is Springfield's sleazy lawyer, known to be a horrible lawyer who often lies about injuries in court trying to make money, but rarely wins a case. He is also the only lawyer the Simpsons can afford and is always hired by them. The meltdown has left him quite giddy, as he's sure there's gotta be *someone* he can try to sue out there for *something* related to the meltdown. How he would win such a suit is unknown though, given his lack of skill.