

SPECIALIZED COMMITTEE

WAKANDAN COUNCIL



Letter to the People:

Honorable delegates,

Welcome to the sixth iteration of the Freeman Model United Nations Conference! Our names are Nihaal Yalamanchili and Jon Steele, and we will be your chairs in the committee: Wakandan Council. Nihaal is a sophomore in the Leadership, Government, and Global Economics center at Freeman and has been avidly participating in MUN for 2 years now. Outside of MUN, Nihaal plays both basketball and volleyball, and is the Parliamentarian of Freeman TSA. Jon is a junior at Freeman who has 2 years of Model UN experience. Outside of school, Jon gardens and plays the piano, and is the founder of SFS which aims to help academically struggling students. We have both participated in many Model UN conferences and are thrilled to be chairing this committee. As your chairs, we hope to make this committee exceptional in all regards and something every delegate can walk away from in content.

We are honored to welcome you to the Wakandan Council, which will focus on tackling two prominent issues: “Wakanda’s Next Leader and Protector,” and “The Protection of Vibranium.” Although this committee is fictional, you will be debating real questions about governance, diplomacy, and politics. This committee will be based directly after the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* movie in the MCU timeline. We hope that with the following guide prepared for you, as well as with your own research and critical thinking, you can work together in committee to find solutions to these major problems. As you discuss these pressing issues in committee, please keep in mind that the views you express should be based on your assigned person’s perspective, not your own personal beliefs. We are excited to see your position’s arguments, solutions, and the factions you join and create.

Although we recommend that every delegate writes a position paper to grasp the best understanding of both the committee and their position, it is optional. However, writing a paper is required if a delegate wishes to receive an award. Awards will be given based on a multitude of factors such as performance during mods, unmods, public directives, private directives, position papers, and other productive efforts. Delegate feedback will be available to everyone multiple times during the conference if desired.

Everyone at FREEMUN VI, the Chairs, Secretariat, and everyone in between have put in plenty of hard work to make Wakandan Council both a hospitable and engaging committee. If you have any questions please contact us at wakandancouncilfreemanvi@gmail.com. With that being said, we can’t wait to see you at this year’s FreeMUN VI!

Your Chairs,

Nihaal Yalamanchili and Jon Steele



Douglas S. Freeman High School Model United Nations Conference

Wakandan Council

Specialized Agency

Topic I: *Wakanda's Next Leader and Protector*

Topic II: *The Protection of Vibranium*

Committee Overview

The Wakandan Council Committee will take place directly after the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* movie. There have been many movies and TV shows after the second Black Panther movie. However, the setting of this committee will take place before those movies and shows, but following the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* movie. Information that delegates communicate should be factually and primarily based on the films of the *Marvel Cinematic Universe*.

In this committee, there will be a wide range of delegates, including tribal leaders, Wakandan royalty, scientific minds, government officials, and foreign allies and enemies. Every delegate has a defined character with specific priorities, beliefs, values, and power. This committee focuses on two issues: "Wakanda's Next Leader and Protector," and "The Protection of Vibranium." For the first conflict of Wakanda's next leader, many are committed to protecting Wakanda, but questions remain around who is best to lead, protect, and

advance the nation. As for the latter issue, there are many who wish to find ways to keep vibranium strictly within Wakanda, but there are others who think Wakanda shouldn't worry so much about security measures and should be open to sharing vibranium with the world.

Delegates should be prepared to debate long-term policies, solve crises that need immediate attention, and draft strong resolutions. Success in this committee will depend on every delegates' ability to think critically, communicate, and work through the problems surrounding tradition and technology, isolation and outreach, and leadership and protection. Wakanda is broken, and it is up to the Wakandan Council to fix it.

Topic I: Wakanda's Next Leader and Protector

Background

Despite what the rest of the world has thought for centuries, Wakanda is not a third world country. In fact, it is much more than that. Wakanda is a legacy that has been protected by the Black Panther for generations. To the people of Wakanda, the Black Panther is more than their protector; he is the icon of the nation's strength, tradition, and culture. The Black Panther is a warrior chosen by Bast, the panther goddess in Wakandan tradition. This mantle has been passed down from one hero to another through an ancient ritual, the highlight of the ritual being when the chosen one consumes the heart-shaped herb. The herb is a very rare plant that is naturally infused with vibranium, Earth's strongest substance. It grants superhuman strength and agility to the drinker of the herb as well as the spiritual connection to the Ancestral Plane.

The plant is at the center of Wakandan culture. It was the source of its protector's power and only connection to the former Black Panther ancestors. When a new leader is crowned, members from each of the six tribes can challenge for the title through an ancient form of combat. The winner would be anointed as both the Black Panther and the King of Wakanda. They would then consume the herb, confirming the connection to the ancestors¹.

¹ Gorin, Alison. "How Does the Heart-Shaped Herb Work in 'Black Panther.?' " *CultureSlate*, CultureSlate, 23 Dec. 2022, www.cultureslate.com/explained/how-does-the-heart-shape-d-herb-work-in-black-panther#:~:text=When%20the%20Vibranium%20meteorite%20struck,tribe%20would%20consume%20the%20herb.

However, a few years ago the legacy was nearly destroyed. After King T'Chaka's death and T'Challa's coronation, Erik Stevens, also known as Killmonger, arrived in Wakanda and seized the title of King from T'Challa. His shocking first action in power was to burn all of the remaining heart-shaped herb in order to prevent anyone from challenging him or gaining its powers. Only one piece was secretly saved by Nakia, who then gave it to T'Challa who used it to overthrow Killmonger and reclaim his mantle as both Black Panther and King of Wakanda. Although, due to no remaining heart-shaped herb, the nation lost its ability to perform the traditional way of crowning the king.

Now, Wakanda is mourning again. King T'Challa has passed away from illness and no successor has been formally or traditionally named. Shuri successfully re-created the herb and consumed it herself. However, she did not follow the traditions that were needed in Wakandan culture to be allowed to take the herb. Wakandan society is now broken, and there is neither a culturally, nor publicly established protector and leader of Wakanda².

Current Status

Wakanda is facing an uncertain future where they must make some difficult decisions. They are powerful in terms of sheer strength, but if left vulnerable for so long without a leader they will fall. Without

² Contributors to Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. "Black Panther." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*, Fandom, Inc., marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Black_Panther. Accessed 31 July 2025.

a Black Panther or an official king there is nobody who can unify the people, lead in battle, or connect with their ancestors. Queen Ramonda served well as an interim ruler, but now after her death Wakanda is once again without a leader. Anarchy is quickly escalating throughout the country.

Foreign nations are aware of Wakanda's lack of leadership and, as addressed in Queen Ramonda's speech, they are using this opportunity to attack Wakandan vibranium outposts. To the rest of the world, Wakanda looks divided and this is their time to strike.

Internally, the Tribal Council of Elders is lost. Neither Shuri, nor M'Baku, nor any other tribal leader has traditionally stepped forward to challenge for the mantle. Some people such as the members of Tribal Council argue that tradition must be honored and the ceremony must occur for a new leader to arise³. However, others such as Princess Shuri, Riri Williams, and Nakia believe traditions are no longer needed and the use of new technology and science will make Wakanda stronger. Shuri herself once said, "the Black Panther is a relic" suggesting that new technology will defend Wakanda to a greater extent.

Eventually after facing the threat of Namor and the loss of her mother, Shuri recreated the heart-shaped herb and unethically took it herself. Additionally, she

recreated the herb with a rare material she got from Namor. The chances of retrieving that substance again are slim to none, so Shuri might face difficulty when attempting to create the herb again.

This has left Wakanda in a gray area. Technically, Shuri has taken up the mantle, but her legitimacy can be questioned as she didn't uphold the traditions. Meanwhile, in accordance with the *Black Panther: Wakanda Forever* movie, M'Baku formally challenged for the throne, but it is not known if he actually won the tribal combat or not. Additionally, it doesn't seem fair to hold the ceremony without the royal heir, Princess Shuri, in attendance to contend. Also keep in mind that T'Challa's young son, Toussaint, still exists as a secret heir to the throne and has his rightful claim for the throne in the future.

Analysis

The Wakandan Council has a question to answer. T'Challa is gone, and now the question of succession is a political and spiritual issue. Some look to Shuri, who led Wakanda against Namor and is within the lineage. Others look to Nakia, the wife of T'Challa and mother of Toussaint. Some even suggest M'Baku as he is the most fitting member in the Tribal Council to take the role. Religion battles with change as the Council must decide whether to uphold the legacy of the Black Panther or embrace the coming of new, stronger technologies.

³ Contributors to Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. "Tribal Council." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*, Fandom, Inc., marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Tribal_Council. Accessed 31 July 2025.

The next leader defines Wakanda's future. Tradition or Technology. Many countries are already taking advantage of the absence of the throne and Black Panther to attack Wakanda. As shown by Namor's strike, Wakanda is not in the position to fight back until a clear leader ascends to the throne.

Traditions are fading, threats are multiplying, discourse is occurring, and the people are worried. Who is the real Black Panther? Who is the leader of Wakanda? The council must decide fast.

Questions to Consider:

1. Should Wakanda crown the new leader through the old traditions or lean towards new, modern changes and hold some sort of election?
2. Should Wakanda continue to rely on the Black Panther as their safekeeper, or move on and find some other source of protection?
3. Does the Black Panther have to be on the throne of Wakanda or can the two roles remain separate?
4. Should a member from another tribe outside of the Golden Tribe rise and take over the royal lineage?
5. Shuri took the heart-shaped herb without completing the appropriate rituals, so should she be punished even though she used the power to protect the country?
6. How should the Council go about recreating the heart-shaped herb as

there is little to none of the material Shuri used left?

7. What qualities are necessary for the next possible leader of Wakanda to have in order to take the throne?

Topic II: The Protection of Vibranium

Background

Vibranium is the most unique material on the Earth, originating from the stars in the form of a meteor that crashed into the region of Wakanda thousands of years ago. It ingrained itself into the ground, becoming a permanent part of the land and the people who live on it. The power of vibranium is unlike anything else, helping the people of Wakanda develop transportation and weapons centuries ahead of other nations. Vibranium's properties allow it to store kinetic energy; with the right technology, it can expel the energy from itself. This, along with its unbreakable nature, helps it to become the rarest, most sought-after material on Earth, surpassing every other substance⁴.

The substance itself weighs only about a third as much as steel. It can be used to make exceptional weapons such as Captain America's shield, which has repeatedly been shown to be practically impenetrable. The only notable time it broke was from Thanos. When used as armor for

⁴ Dedar, Sawera. "Vibranium: Black Panther's Magical Metal Explained." *Collider*, 8 Nov. 2022, collider.com/vibranium-black-panther-explained/.

the black panther, vibranium allows the user to endure almost any projectile or force, only being penetrated by other vibranium. Vibranium's effect on the world if spread to other countries would be catastrophic. If powerful nations such as the United States or China were able to access a steady supply of vibranium, they'd be powerful enough to take first world countries with ease. To prevent this, the Wakandans choose to keep it concealed within their nation, understanding how fatal a potential leak could be⁵.

Furthermore, Wakanda has already prevented robberies of their vibranium before, a fact that Queen Ramonda highlights during her speech at the United Nations. Ramonda cites an attack on one of their outpost centers carried out by spies. She claims that even though their king, T'Challa, is gone, they're still capable of defending their country. In addition to the robbery attempts, Wakanda has seen the effects of vibranium in the possession of another civilization; for Talokan, they had planned to engage in war with the surface world over the substance. Moreover, they almost declared war with Wakanda over such plans.

Current Status

Currently, Wakanda is in a unique situation regarding its vibranium protection. The threat of vibranium being stolen isn't

currently present, but the possibility of another attack is high. As seen before, there have already been instances of vibranium being stolen or used outside of Wakanda. With the knowledge of vibranium now spread across the world, other nations have demonstrated their desire for a share, which is already a major point of global conflict. This has been discussed in the Tribal Council before; every elder agreed that Wakanda should continue to stay out of global affairs and remain to not only protect their vibranium but their civilization as a whole. The idea that Wakanda should share their knowledge and their vibranium had been suggested before by T'Challa and Nakia, however, but because of T'Challa's death and Nakia's departure, the idea never came into fruition.

There is still an ongoing debate about whether or not Wakanda has the ability to defend itself from other countries if they were to attack. Before, it was mentioned that there had been attacks on Wakandan outposts from other countries that were quickly neutralized, but there has never been a full scale attack on Wakanda. Wakanda, on its own, doesn't have the required firepower and resources to take over every major country on the planet, even with their technological advancements; Wakanda is too small of a nation and, even with vibranium, it could be easily overpowered by countries such as the US or China, who have a much larger military. On the contrary, Wakanda, being highly isolationist, allows it to fly under global radar, and their access to vibranium allows it to defend itself from threats outside of its

⁵ Hart, Patrick. "The History of Wakanda's Vibranium Explained." *Looper*, Looper, 4 Nov. 2020, www.looper.com/272872/the-history-of-wakandas-vibranium-explained/.

country. With technology such as their cloaks, midnight angles, airships, and the Black Panther, it would be difficult to take over Wakanda with a single ambush. Regarding the overall threat potential, anything could happen with the current state of Wakanda, and as mentioned, it isn't implausible that an attack will happen soon.

Analysis

There have already been many solutions proposed by the council. But even then, the problem is still nuanced and requires a more refined resolution. Many desire to retain vibranium within Wakanda and stay isolated from global affairs so that the threat of attack is low and Wakanda can continue to prosper on its own. However, the existence of vibranium is now public, and with the looming threat of another raid, Wakanda needs a way to protect itself. On the other hand, the idea of trading Vibranium has its benefits. Having an extremely valuable resource for trade gives Wakanda economic stability and positive relationships with every country it trades to; furthermore, every country involved could gain centuries worth of technological advancement. However, like Romanda mentioned in her UN speech, it's too risky to give already powerful nations a substance that will grant them even more power. What is stopping them from taking over the world? Or opposing their rule on other countries who don't also have vibranium?

Overall, the issue at hand is too complex to figure out with a singular solution, and we encourage delegates to

come together with new ideas to help solve the many facets of this problem. There are many aspects to consider; if we propose to keep our vibranium heavily protected and secluded, how are we going to defend ourselves from the potential attacks of powerful nations? If we choose to trade Vibranium, how are we going to stop other countries from misusing it? The council has been divided for too long, and now is the time to formulate a solution before something happens to our vibranium. In our case, all solutions are on the table no matter how radical they may seem, it is up to the council to decide the fate of Wakanda's vibranium.

Questions to Consider:

1. How to protect vibranium from being stolen in the future?
2. How does Wakanda avoid leaks through the black market?
3. How to keep vibranium safe and away from foreign threats?
4. New reforms to how vibranium is stored or accessed?
5. Should Wakanda even keep vibranium to themselves or openly share it to the rest of the world?
6. Can vibranium be bought by anyone or any country?

Bibliography

1. Contributors to Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. "Black Panther." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*, Fandom, Inc., marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Black_Panther.
2. Contributors to Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki. "Tribal Council." *Marvel Cinematic Universe Wiki*, Fandom, Inc., marvelcinematicuniverse.fandom.com/wiki/Tribal_Council.
3. Database, Contributors to Marvel. "Wakanda." *Marvel Database*, Fandom, Inc., marvel.fandom.com/wiki/Wakanda.
4. Dedar, Sawera. "Vibranium: Black Panther's Magical Metal Explained." *Collider*, 8 Nov. 2022, collider.com/vibranium-black-panther-explained/.
5. Gorin, Alison. "How Does the Heart-Shaped Herb Work in 'Black Panther.'" *CultureSlate*, CultureSlate, 23 Dec. 2022, www.cultureslate.com/explained/how-does-the-heart-shaped-herb-work-in-black-panther#:~:text=When%20the%20Vibranium%20meteorite%20struck,tribe%20would%20consume%20the%20herb.
6. Hart, Patrick. "The History of Wakanda's Vibranium Explained." *Looper*, Looper, 4 Nov. 2020, www.looper.com/272872/the-history-of-wakandas-vibranium-explained/.
7. Jude, Tamara. "Black Panther: 16 Things You Didn't Know about Wakanda." *ScreenRant*, 28 Feb. 2018, screenrant.com/black-panther-wakanda-trivia-facts/.



Douglas S. Freeman High School Model United Nations Conference