

MADMUN XIII

Miss Universe 2022: Reformation or Discontinuation?



MISS UNIVERSE

Introduction to Your Chairs



Hey all! I'm Joey and I'll be one of your chairs for this year's Miss Universe Pageant Committee! I'm currently the President of the McFarland Model United Nations club in my third year of MUN! Originally, I joined MUN because I wanted an attractive extracurricular on my resume, as many people do. Now, MUN to me has been one of the most enriching experiences of my life that have taught me so many valuable skills! Along with that, MUN has also gifted me with many wonderful memories. A few of my favorite MUN memories occurred when I chaired SOCHUM at MADMUN 21 and the delegates had an arm wrestling competition and a fashion show.

Quite a long time ago, I was filling out the chair sign-up sheet for MADMUN 2022, I saw the Miss Universe Pageant committee as an option and spat out my tea. I thought to myself that *this committee would be the most corrupt and exceptional in the entire history of MUN.*

So of course I marked it as my first choice. Soon enough, the Miss Universe exec team was formed, and

together we decided on two topics that would allow our "contestants" to partake in the most malevolent and mischievous schemes, and showcase their true potential as delegates. They are The Definition of Beauty and the Reformation or Suspension of the Miss Universe Pageant.

Now, here we are, eagerly awaiting the mass corruption and drama that is to take place on MADMUN 22. Good luck delegates, we're so excited to see what you'll do! If you have any questions at all, don't hesitate to ask!

Email: LewisJ@mcfsd.org

Hello, delegates,

I'm Mary Konz and I'm thrilled to be one of your chairs. I'm a senior at Monona Grove High School, where I will be serving as the President of Model UN. This is my third year in MUN, and my second year chairing MADMUN. One of my favorite MUN memories is getting to be the iconic Meghan Markle in the House of Windsor committee at St. Ignatius's conference in 2021. I made so many friends, and got to wear a tiara since it was also my 17th birthday! Speaking of tiaras, I am so excited to be chairing the Miss Universe Pageant. The committee idea was presented to me last year while a friend and I were hanging out, and since Monona Grove is hosting MADMUN this year, I *begged* the Secretary-General to let us have a Miss Universe committee. As advanced delegates-- many of whom are approaching their final conferences in their MUN careers-- I thought you guys would appreciate a fun committee that you could enjoy. I hope you'll have as much fun on this committee as we, the staff team, have had to put it together for you. Please reach out to me if you have any questions at all, or to introduce yourself. Much love to you all! xoxo

I can't wait to see you in committee <3

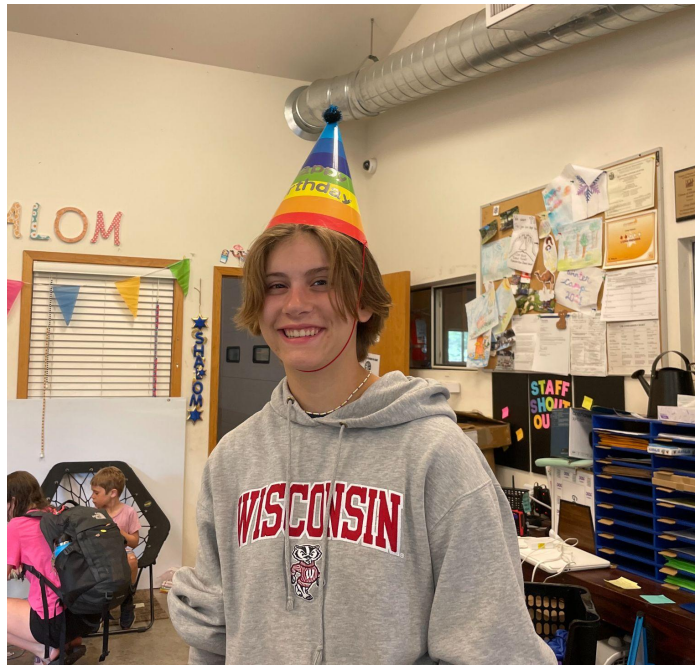
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Hi everyone! My name is Aviva and I can't wait to be your sim. I am currently a senior at Madison West High School and this will be my fourth year in Model UN. Right now, I am one of West's presidents. I originally joined Model UN after seeing it in a Parks and Recreation episode but ended up loving how much I learned, the friends I made, and all of the skills I gained. One of my favorite Model UN memories was during a joint conference with Waunakee High School in 2021 when all of the other delegates signed a petition to assassinate me because I had too much power. For MADMUN 2022, I wanted to join an advanced committee, especially a more creative one like Ms. Universe to see everything you all can do. In my experience as a delegate, some of my favorite committees have been advanced crises surrounding either

historical and/or fun topics. In those committees, I have had to be very creative in the backroom, so I'm excited for all of the chaos and corruption that is sure to go down. I especially wanted to be a part of the Ms. Universe committee with its topics of "The Definition of Beauty" and "The Fate of the Miss Universe Pageant" in order to explore what beauty means and everything that goes on behind beauty pageants. Honestly, I am not very well versed in beauty pageants, but after watching Miss Congeniality many years ago and hearing all sorts of drama surrounding Toddlers in Tiaras, I am quite intrigued. I think this committee will be lots of fun and I can't wait to meet all of you! If you have any questions, please reach out!

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Letter to the Delegates

Dear delegates of the Miss Universe 2022 Committee,

In this committee, you will be assigned the role of a former Miss Universe winner, tasked with ultimately deciding the fate of Miss Universe. As you discuss and debate with fellow delegates, you will decide what exactly the definition of beauty is, at least through the lens of the Miss Universe pageant and the potential issues it causes, and what to do about it. In addition to the definition of beauty, more importantly, you will be deciding the fate of the Miss Universe pageant, and how exactly this committee should plan to go about a reformation or even total discontinuation. Throughout this committee, you should aim to be creative, cunning, and confident, and reach for your ultimate goals. We're so excited to see what you'll accomplish! See you in December!

Sincerely, your Chairs and Sim

Introduction to the Committee

Miss Universe was created in 1952 initially as a "marketing stunt" by Pacific Knitting Mills, a clothing company after the most recent winner of Miss America had refused to wear a swimsuit from their line. Since then, it has evolved into one of the most watched international beauty pageants in the world with over 500 million viewers. However, over the past 70 years, the pageant has suffered its fair share of controversies and scandals. Can the pageant truly overcome and put these controversies behind it to adapt to the values of our modern society? Or is this cause one that has already been lost? That is why it is up to you, former contestants of the Miss Universe pageant, to decide its fate, while also pursuing your own personal interests.

This committee is set in 2022 before the 71st Miss Universe pageant takes place. In its 71st year, you and other contestants have decided to come together to examine the place Miss Universe takes in our modern global society. There are two topics on the table, the definition of beauty, particularly how the Miss Universe pageant defines beauty now and how it was previously defined, and the fate of Miss Universe. Some contestants are in favor of reforming the pageant, some are in favor of discontinuing it all together, and some are interested in doing nothing at all.

You will be taking on the role of a past winner of the Miss Universe pageant, and with others, you will come to a consensus on the definition of beauty as well as the fate of the Miss Universe pageant.



Topic 1 - The Definition of Beauty

Description 1.1

Merriam-Webster defines beauty as the quality or aggregate of qualities in a person or thing that gives pleasure to the senses or pleasurably exalts the mind or spirit. Throughout the Miss Universe Pageant, the definition of beauty is a definition that has proved to be a very flexible one. From a pageant originally focused on patriarchal and eurocentric beauty standards, the pageant has now moved to define beauty as confidence and poise. But can a definition that has been historically controlled by the patriarchy be used to empower women? Is it something women participating in this pageant should be judged on? Or is this metamorphosis of beauty something that can inspire millions around the world? It is up to the former contestants of Miss Universe to find the answer, and determine if the definition of beauty for Miss Universe is flawed, or perfect by all means.

History 1.2

Over the course of the pageant, one thing has remained unchanged: what these women represent. From the very beginnings of beauty pageants, contestants were deemed winners based on their representation of their region as a whole. Beauty queens are chosen to stand beautifully and gracefully representing a collective identity of thousands and millions of people. Those identities are various and diverse, but all contestants of Miss Universe share the same idealistic trait: beauty.

In 1952, developed by an American organization, Miss Universe's definition of beauty was based on ideal eurocentric standards. It was 25 years until a contestant of color, Janelle Commissiong, won Miss

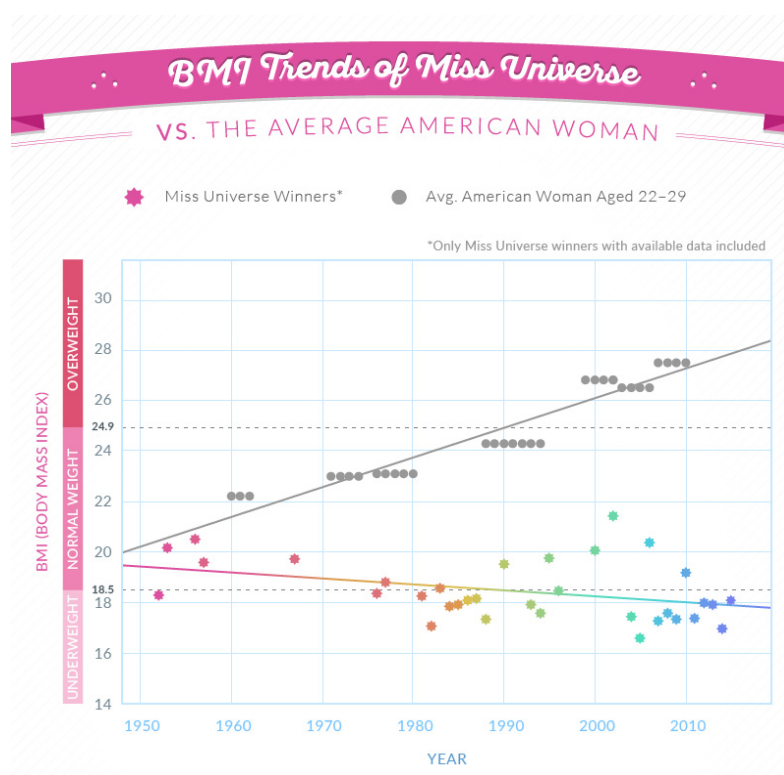
Universe as well as Miss Photogenic. Since 1952, there have only been a total of 7 Miss Universe winners who have been women of color. That means 10% of Miss Universe winners in the last 70 years have been women of color. However, Miss Universe is also one of the only pageants that hold a national costume portion of their pageant, which allows contestants to dress in their national costume and share their culture with the viewers of Miss Universe. Different cultures define beauty in different ways, and throughout its run, Miss Universe has adapted to showcase cultural representations of beauty. So, despite its lack of diverse winners, it is clear that in more recent years, the Miss Universe pageant has reformed in some ways, including in 2012 newly allowing transgender women to compete. Still, the pageant has required in the past for women competing to be between the ages of 18 and 27, unmarried and single. They were also prohibited from competing if they were pregnant or had children. However, this was very recently changed. So though the pageant has adapted and evolved in other ways, has it been evolving separately from society, or with it?

Watch this video to see the evolution of Miss Universe winners over the years

<https://onlinedoctor.superdrug.com/services/widgets/evolution-miss-universe/miss-universe-morph.mp4>

Current Situation 1.3

Since 1952, the Miss Universe Pageant has become a lot more diverse and inclusive to participants, but there is still the prominent issue of objectification and judging contestants based on their appearance more than their intelligence or values. It is still evident despite the Miss Universe pageant updating its guidelines to align with the beliefs of modern society that Miss Universe winners portray a similar pattern of conventional beauty standards. Superdrug Online Doctor, a medical service site, compiled data on the different heights and weights of Miss Universe from 1952 to 2015. This compilation uncovered that in the



recent years of Miss Universe winners, Miss Universe's BMI has decreased while her height has only increased. Some argue that this trend only shows how global society perpetuates unrealistic standards of beauty and a woman's attractiveness, while others say that this trend encourages and empowers other women to become their best and fittest selves. There is also the controversial issue of the swimsuit section of the pageant, which, unlike its competitor competitions, Miss Universe includes in their pageant

despite viewers calling it “outdated” and “misogynistic”. The organization itself outwardly states that they judge their contestants based on the confidence they showcase on the runway, not their appearance. However, in recent years, viewers have criticized the pageant, saying a swimsuit competition does not belong in modern pageants. Some say that although it may be outdated, it is another way to scope out the confidence of a future Miss Universe, and in recent years has become an increasingly creative presentation for the contestants. On the other hand, though it was over ten years ago, a former judge of the pageant in an interview with Forbes magazine vocalized that contestants were still [judged solely on their appearance](#). The question is, is that still the case today? And if so, is that how contestants should be judged?

Whatever the contestants' and viewers' opinions may be on the definition of beauty this pageant upholds, it is clear that there is a confusing consensus on what it means to be beautiful in this pageant.

Relevant Questions 1.4

1. How do different cultures define beauty and how has this been represented in the pageant thus far?
2. What components of beauty can be problematic concerning the Miss Universe pageant?
3. How has the definition of beauty changed over time for different cultures compared to Miss Universe's definition of beauty?
4. What is the definition of beauty in your own words and the definition of beauty in your country? How do you reflect that?

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Topic 2 - The Fate of the Miss Universe Pageant



Setting the Scene: How Has the Miss Universe Pageant Changed Across the Years?

In the seven-plus-decades since the formation of the Miss Universe Pageant, much has changed... but has there been *enough* change to "keep up with the times?" *Should* the pageant change and evolve as time goes on? Detailed below is a timeline including some of the most prominent moments in the Miss Universe Pageant's evolution.

1952: Pacific Knitting Mills starts Miss Universe, consisting of 30 contestants. Any country is welcomed to participate, so long as they pay the franchise fee.

1955: In order to keep up with technological advancements, the pageant is broadcasted. John Daly hosts the first broadcast and continues hosting until his replacement, Bob Barker, takes over eleven years later.

1959: Seven years after the pageant's founding, Miss Japan, Akiko Kojima, becomes the first Asian woman to win Miss Universe.

1960: The interview portion of the pageant is added.

1987: Pageant host Bob Barker resigns after twenty-one years of hosting. The pageant refused to stop awarding fur coats to the winning girls, which led to Barker's resignation.

1977: Twenty-five years after the pageant's founding, Miss Trinidad-Tobago, Janelle Commissiong, becomes the first Black woman to win Miss Universe.

1980: Miss USA wins Miss Universe, and changes the beauty standard for the pageant. She starts a trend of fit, athletic bodies being hailed as superior.

1996: The pageant transfers into the hands of Donald Trump.

2011: The pageant continues including intelligence and poise as criteria for winners. A former judge says "beauty, beauty, beauty. It's all about beauty. But read their bios. Every single one of them is smart, too."

2012: Following a lawsuit, Miss Universe announces it will allow transgender contestants to compete.

2015: Donald Trump sells the Miss Universe organization. During his presidential campaign, he made several controversial comments, and accusations of racist remarks and inappropriate actions towards former pageant winners surfaced, forcing him to relinquish ownership of the franchise.

2018: The first transgender contestant-- Miss Spain, Angela Ponce-- competes in the pageant.

2019: The first openly lesbian contestant-- Miss Myanmar, Swe Zin Htet-- competes in the pageant.

2022: Miss Universe entry restrictions are loosened, allowing married and divorced women, as well as mothers, to compete in the pageant.

Your Question Is: What to do About the Miss Universe Pageant?

By today's standards, the Miss Universe pageant is a little outdated at best, and outright misogynistic at worst. Some say the pageant can still be saved with a little bit of tweaking, while others say it's a lost cause and should be abandoned altogether. Listed below are some of the biggest sources of controversy surrounding the pageant.

- **The Swimwear Section:** A former Miss Israel, Linor Abargil, made an Instagram post stating "The year is 2021 and women are walking in bathing suits while people objectify them and choose the one who will be Miss Universe-- really?? It's a disgrace that girls have to live, even today, with the idea of external approval of their bodies. [...] The day will come that we will look back and not believe that competitions like this ever existed-- a disgrace!" A former Miss Canada, Tamara Jemuovic, said that the stereotype of pageants only caring about superficial beauty is unfair to the contestants. She said "I think that the stereotype is sort of disintegrating. There's so much weight on the interview portion of the pageant, that the external beauty is not on the forefront like it may have been many, many, many years ago. We focus a lot more on empowering one another and helping each other." In 2021, when Israel hosted the pageant, there were talks of switching swimwear for sportswear. Should the swimwear section be swapped? Should it be preserved as tradition? Is the section itself even necessary?
- **Pageant Entry Restrictions:** Critics of the pageant will point out that entry restrictions did not allow women who are married, divorced, or who have children to compete in the pageant until this year, showcasing how outdated Miss Universe policies can be. Miss Universe fans, however, will point out that the restrictions are rather progressive, as they allow for transgender and LGBTQ+ contestants to compete. Should the entry restrictions be updated? How so?
- **Reinforced Beauty Standards:** Assaf Blecher, an executive producer of the Miss Universe 2021 pageant, said "If you meet the ladies, you see that they are strong, smart, intellectual-- and beautiful. They don't all look alike. Miss Bahrain is 5'1". And Miss Thailand is not skinny by any means." But is a 5'1" contestant standing next to a 5'9" contestant really "diversity?" When you look at the Miss Universe lineup, they have very similar body types. As the body positivity movement grows bigger and gains more momentum, should its effects be seen on the Miss Universe stage? Should there be more body types represented in the pageant? Is the lack of

variety due to a problem within the Miss Universe pageant, or is it due to the way society defines beauty?

Are these issues still able to be corrected and reformed, or are they better off abandoned? Is it possible to fix the Miss Universe pageant? Should tradition be sacrificed for progress, or is it better to preserve historic aspects of the pageant? Is there a way to do both?

Guiding Questions

1. How do pageant entry restrictions affect who can compete? Which demographics are currently prevented from competing? How do we modify these restrictions to allow more people to compete? Should we allow more people to compete?
2. Is the lack of diversity due to a flawed pageant system, or is it due to a broader societal issue? If it's a pageant issue, how should it be addressed? If it's a societal issue, is it the pageant's responsibility to address the issue?
3. Which portions of the pageant promote the objectification of women? Which portions promote empowerment?
4. How do we modify pageant portions to accommodate all cultures? Is it the pageant's responsibility to accommodate everyone, or is it the contestant's responsibility to conform to the pageant norms? How should the pageant change to be more accommodating?
5. Can a system built on the objectification of women ever truly serve women? How? Can it be reformed, or does it need to be dismantled completely in order to start anew?

See how the Miss Universe pageant has evolved over 67 years

"See How The Miss Universe Pageant Has Evolved Over 67 Years". *Business Insider*, 2022, <https://www.businessinsider.com/miss-universe-then-and-now-2017-1>. Accessed 28 July 2022.

In 2021, should Miss Universe still be a thing? Those involved weigh in

"In 2021, Should Miss Universe Still Be A Thing? Those Involved Weigh In". *Timesofisrael.Com*, 2021, <https://www.timesofisrael.com/in-2021-should-miss-universe-still-be-a-thing-those-involved-weigh-in/>. Accessed 18 Oct 2022.

