

# BACKGROUND GUIDE

## HARRY POTTER



### RATIONALE:

Delegates, you will be sorted into houses: Gryffindor, Hufflepuff, Ravenclaw, Slytherin. You are called to represent your house and discuss if the house cup is worth competing for. At this conference, you will come together as members and make actions. Remember you will gain and lose points based on performances and rule violations. As Delegates a decision needs to be made if the Sorting Hat should decide which house students are selected to or not. Many believe that it does not have the best decisions when students are put into houses. The overall goal of the houses is to win the house cup! The topic is critical and needs to be addressed. Entertainment, games, competition are what it brings. Should we keep the Sorting Hat and house decisions?



## BACKGROUND:

Founded around the 9th century and 10th century by Godric Gryffindor, Rowena Ravenclaw, Helga Hufflepuff and Salazar Slytherin, Hogwarts was established in the Highlands of Scotland to educate young wizards and witches as well as to keep students safe from Muggle persecution. Each of them created a house in their names and thus established one of the best schools in the wizarding world. Each House represents one of the four classical elements: Fire (Gryffindor), Earth (Hufflepuff), Air (Ravenclaw), and Water (Slytherin). The Sorting Hat was enchanted with the collective intelligence of the Founders of Hogwarts. It also has the ability to read the minds of its wearers. The Sorting Hat sorts them into Houses based on the qualities which they possess. People who possess Bravery and Chivalry are sorted into Gryffindor. People who possess hard work, patience and loyalty are placed into Hufflepuff. People who possess intelligence, knowledge and wit are sorted into Ravenclaw. People who possess ambition, cunningness, heritage and resourcefulness are sorted into Hufflepuff.

## CONTEMPORARY EVIDENCE:

- Wizards and witches who turn 11, get letters from Hogwarts through owl posts, informing them about their acceptance to Hogwarts. Muggle born kids are reached out to by a professor of Hogwarts, who tells the Muggles about the magical world and how their kid has to be trained in one of the best magical schools.
- The Sorting Hat is an ancient wizard's hat which is used at the beginning of every school year to sort incoming students into their Houses. The hat resides in the Head's office at Hogwarts.
- Originally the pointed wizard's hat of Godric Gryffindor, the Sorting Hat was bewitched by all four of the Founders of Hogwarts with brains and some amount of personality. Its function is to determine which of the four Houses each new student will enter. It does so at the beginning of the start-of-term feast, when it is placed on a stool in front of the Great Hall. It then sings a long, rambling song of introduction, a different one each year but with the same basic information in it: how it was bewitched to perform the sorting and what the criteria are for the

various houses. The first year students one by one place the Sorting Hat on their heads. Within a minute, it loudly proclaims the house for which they are best suited.

- The hat is battered and old; it's patched, frayed, and extremely dirty. In order to speak and sing, a tear along the brim opens like a mouth. It speaks inside of the hat with a small, quiet voice to the wearer and it can read thoughts and respond to them. When not sorting students, the Sorting Hat rests on its stool in Dumbledore's office.
- The Sorting Hat feels itself honor-bound to give due warning when it detects great danger for the school. Nick says he's heard it happen several times before, and that the advice is always the same: "Stand together, be strong from within."

## REFERENCES AND RESEARCH

## RESOURCES:

<https://online.ucpress.edu/collabra/article/5/1/31/113037/The-Science-Behind-the-Magic-The-Relation-of-the>

## DELEGATE ROLES:

Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry Representatives:

- Draco Malfoy (S)
- Luna Lovegood (R)
- Neville Longbottom (G)
- Cho Chang (R)
- Cedric Diggory (H)
- Pavarti Patil (G)
- Angelina Johnson (G)
- Tamsin Applebee (H)
- Gwendoline Hedgeflower (H)
- Marietta Edgecomb (R)
- Theodore Knott (S)
- Daphne Greengrass (S)

Durmstrang Institute for Magic Representatives:

- Viktor Krum

Beauxbaton's Academy of Magic

- Fleur Delacour

# NOTE TO THE DELEGATES:

- The Harry Potter books and movies are the most popular franchise in the world. Harry Potter has impacted popular culture.
- The Harry Potter books and movies are the most popular franchise in the world. Harry Potter has impacted popular culture.
- We also make assumptions on which Hogwarts house people we meet belong to, based on the personality traits we think reflect on them.
- Being in houses with similar values and personality traits allows the build up of community.

# NOTES FOR THIS CONFERENCE:

- This conference will take place in the summer before school.
- Dumbledore is calling for 3 representatives from every house, as well as representatives from the two other schools of Magic who compete (namely, Beauxbaxtons and the Durmstrang Institute)
- Don't focus on Harry, Ron or Hermione
- You will be assigned a house or school, and you must represent its values as well as come up with a resolution.
- Go in understanding the various views on competing for the Cup and what the games and trials entail.
- Look into the positives and negatives of competition and collaboration.

FOR ANY QUESTIONS CONCERNING THIS TOPIC PLEASE REACH OUT TO ALISON ANTHONY:

[antal-24@rhodes.edu](mailto:antal-24@rhodes.edu)

