

The Thirtieth Annual

Virginia Model United Nations Conference

Presents...

Ministry of Magic

Colin Custer
*Undersecretary- General
for Committees*

Casey Enders
Chair

Table of Contents

Introduction.....	3
History of the Ministry of Magic.....	4
Topic 1: Trade of Magical Objects.....	7
Statement of the Problem	7
History of the Problem	9
Topic 2: Death Eaters – Recruitment and Membership.....	11
Statement of the Problem	11
History of the Problem	13
Closing Remarks.....	17
Bibliography	18

Ministers and Departmental Leaders,

My name is Casey Enders and I'm a third-year here at the University. At the end of last year, I was accepted into a small major that allows me to study and receive a degree in both government and foreign affairs – majors which are generally mutually exclusive. (Mostly I'm excited because this major allows me to take all of my classes on a pass/fail basis – no more grades!) I'm interested in all areas of politics, but most especially in international relations and the Middle East. When I'm not studying, I spend most of my time cheerleading and leading a group on grounds to raise money for St. Jude Children's Research Hospital. In my very rare spare time, I enjoy running, reading, crossword puzzles, Sporcle, hanging out with my baby brothers, and Bikram Yoga.

I'm originally from Northern Virginia and I attended my first MUN conference in 8th grade. Since then, I have attended and staffed a number of conferences, learning that MUN can be both informative *and* entertaining, which led to my decision to chair this committee. (In fact, my favorite MUN experience was when I staffed another Ministry of Magic committee during high school and was able to play a goblin during the crisis.)

I'm excited to lead this committee because I've always enjoyed Harry Potter but I've never been an obsessive enthusiast. The research I've conducted for this background guide has reminded me of a world which I had forgotten existed, and I hope you'll find the same as you conduct your own research. Remember, the background guide is just that; it is a *guide* to your research and it covers only the most basic *background* information. In order to truly understand your position as well as the issues at hand, it is imperative that you conduct your own research. To better frame your research, you should begin with *Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix*, as our committee discussion will pick up where this book leaves off.

If you have any questions at all, please feel free to contact me at any point before the conference. (My Blackberry is almost permanently attached to my hip, so I *will* respond.) I wish you all the best of luck and I look forward to meeting you at the conference!

Casey Enders
cee9h@virginia.edu

Introduction

At this point in time, it is becoming increasingly obvious that all the most important and relevant topics for discussion in our committee meetings will have to serve some greater purpose; beyond merely functioning as an administrative body, we must learn to implement measures that will ultimately combat the rise of Voldemort and the Death Eaters. Though this body long denied the claims of Voldemort's return, it has now become impossible to ignore his existence any longer. Therefore, we must remember that our purpose is always two-fold; we must maintain the functional, regulatory aspects of our committee while keeping in mind our ultimate goal of defeating Voldemort. All resolutions *must* be in line with this final goal.

The topics we will discuss will reflect these two aims; the first is regarding the issue of trade of “dangerous” magical items (as will be explored later in this background guide) and the second is a more general discussion of the Death Eaters as an organization. Trade of any magical item is always a tricky subject, but it has

become even trickier in recent months, as the use of magical items has become increasingly important as the Death Eaters gain power. The Death Eaters are already a powerful group of wizards,; arming these already skilled, dangerous wizards with more dangerous tools appears reckless to many. At the same time, however, it is important to ensure that *all* wizards have access to certain magical items – not only is it important to protect their freedom of access, it is also critical that they have access to these items if they will aid in defense. At the same time, it is important that we discuss the more general existence of the Death Eaters. What is to be done about their increasing power and—even more concerning—their increasing membership? There are a number of facets to this issue – each of which requires intense debate and eventual agreement. It will not be easy to come to an accord about such controversial topics, but it is absolutely imperative that these decisions be made, and in a timely fashion.

History of the Ministry of Magic

The Ministry of Magic came into existence sometime late in the 1600s; its transition into the Ministry from its former body – the Wizards’ Council – was lengthy and therefore its exact date of creation is unknown.¹ Part of the reason for this confusion was the coexistence of the International Confederation of Wizards, a group that met also in the 1600s during the height of the persecution of witches and wizards. In response to the increasing persecution, the ICW made the tough decision to remove the whole wizarding world from the Muggle world.² After this momentous decision, embodied in the still-functioning *International Wizarding Code of Secrecy*, the Ministry of Magic emerged in the United Kingdom as a body that would oversee magic throughout the British wizarding world.

The Ministry is composed of seven distinct departments, each of which is led by a department head. These departments include:³

1. *The Department of Magical Law Enforcement*: This department is especially large, as it encompasses both the law enforcement and court systems; it is composed of both the Aurors and the Wizengamot, among other offices. It also includes the Misuse of Magical Artifacts Office and Magical Equipment Control. Unfortunately, this department has sometimes been viewed as weak and inept, due to their ineffectual actions. Though the Aurors are often highly respected throughout the community, it is important to keep in mind the public view of the department as a whole and to work *against* the stereotype of ineffectiveness.

2. *The Department of Magical Accidents and Catastrophes*: This department handles any magical spells or incidents of any kind that result in injury or problems of any kind. They especially address incidents that

¹ *Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them*.

² www.hp-lexicon.org

³ Unless otherwise noted, all information regarding the Ministry of Magic departments can be found at: [http://www.hp-](http://www.hp-lexicon.org/ministry/ministry-depts.html#Equipment)

[lexicon.org/ministry/ministry-depts.html#Equipment](http://www.hp-lexicon.org/ministry/ministry-depts.html#Equipment)

involve Muggles at all; a particularly famous example was the one in which Sirius Black killed 13 people on one street during Voldemort's first reign. In the past, this department has worked very hard to handle any magical incident which affects the Muggle community and potentially endangers the secrecy of the wizarding world. If necessary, this group will modify memories or create alternate stories to explain an event.

3. *The Department for the Regulation and Control of Magical Creatures:* This office handles all concerns related to magical creatures ranging from dragons and centaurs to fire-breathing chickens. In the past, this department has been more concerned with the prevention of the spread of dangerous creatures, rather than their preservation. There are a number of magical creatures that Voldemort has attempted to utilize in the past and this department has worked very hard to ensure that regulations are in

place which would complicate his efforts.

4. *The Department of International Magical Cooperation:* This group works with other magical ministries in other countries. Within its department are those wizards which hold the British seats on the International Confederation of Wizards. One of their most important tasks is regulating trade both within the United Kingdom and with other nations. In the past, this group has focused most on issues which are of international importance. For example, the International Confederation of Wizards was the group which instituted the *International Wizarding Code of Secrecy*. This department must therefore be aware of international concerns both within and without the wizarding world.

5. *The Department of Magical Transportation:* These wizards oversee all use of the floo network and any and all portkeys. In the past, this office has imposed very stringent

regulations regarding the floo network and portkey creation; it is very difficult to utilize either of these methods of transportation without experience and permission. However, their regulation of broomstick usage is far more relaxed, as this method of transportation is far more common and thus more difficult to control.

6. *The Department of Magical*

Games and Sports: This office oversees both the Irish and British Quidditch Leagues, as well as the Ludicrous Patents Office. Members of this department are obviously skilled in the rules of wizarding sports, but they are also highly skilled in concealment of wizarding activities. They have been responsible for organizing both the Quidditch World Cup as well as the Triwizard Tournament and concealing both of these large-scale events from the Muggle community.

7. *The Department of Mysteries:*

There is no published information available about this

department, aside from the fact that it houses the Hall of Prophecy. All wizards who work in this department are known as “Unspeakables” because of the incredibly secretive nature of their work.⁴ In the past, this body has been seen as particularly troubling to the public because of its secrecy; it is surrounded by rumors, many of which are untrue.

The Ministry is a continuously meeting body. Its departments function somewhat independently on a day-to-day basis, but the department heads are in regular communication with one another. They communicate via interdepartmental memos, which are found regularly zipping through the halls and elevators throughout the Ministry of Magic building.

⁴ Specific information on The Department of Mysteries:
http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Department_of_Mysteries

Topic 1: Trade of Magical Objects

Statement of the Problem

Because wizards are so entrepreneurial and creative (and have access to a variety of mechanical tools and skills which are unavailable to those in the Muggle world), there are a great number of so-called “magical objects.” For the purposes of this discussion, a magical object is defined as anything which is created or developed by a witch or wizard and which requires magic either in the creation of or use of the object. With such a broad definition, it is clear that there are thousands of magical objects in existence – especially as bewitched Muggle objects can be considered magical.

Trade of any kind is primarily handled by the Department of International Magical Cooperation, though the issues at hand are relevant to nearly every department, as magical objects are important to each department in a different way. This is especially true because the Department of International Magical Cooperation is far more focused on international rather than domestic trade. (In other words, the DIMC is less concerned with the buying

and selling of certain magical objects within the borders of the United Kingdom.) Therefore, many individual departments must determine which magical objects require regulation at and *especially* which objects should be sold when and where.

In general, this committee needs to answer three important questions regarding trade of magical objects:

1. Which magical objects require regulation?
Generally, what types of regulation might be required for different classes of objects?
2. Should the sale of some goods be ended altogether?
3. Between countries, would more or less trade be beneficial to the overall issue of Voldemort and the Death Eaters’ return?

These questions will serve as the basis for debate, as they cover three important areas within domestic and international trade. It may be best to focus only on one issue at a time, however, as defining trade regulations of any kind is certainly no small task.

Though any and all magical objects can be included in debate (and the committee is encouraged to do thorough research to make sure that all important magical objects are considered), there are certain objects that will prove to be more problematic if they make their way into the hands of the enemy. For example, time-turners have the power to give someone the chance to repeat a certain time period in a different spatial location. Were this power afforded to Lord Voldemort – who no doubt already has access to tools of similar power – he would be able to almost replicate himself for a short period of time. This is clearly a goal which he had both before his initial “death” thirteen years ago as well as more recently, after his return. (This is clearly evidenced by his obsession with horcruxes and similar magical objects.) Unfortunately, the entire Ministry supply of Time Turners was recently destroyed and there was no record kept of who might own the others.⁵ Therefore, there are plenty in existence which could potentially fall into the wrong hands at

any time, especially if this buying and selling goes undetected.

It is this type of logic which we must use when deciding which magical objects most seriously require regulation. There are some which – at first glance – do not appear dangerous but could ultimately serve as a weapon for a Death Eater. It is therefore important to examine all potential uses of a given object before making a decision. However, there are certain objects which are known to be “Dark Objects,” and which can be found in places like Borgin & Burkes as well as in other shops in Knockturn Alley.⁶ The committee is encouraged to discuss this class of items as well, as it includes such infamous objects as the vanishing cabinet and the Hand of Glory. These two objects were recently used by Voldemort’s friends and allies to conduct business on his behalf; it is critical that we determine what action should be taken regarding these Dark Objects.

⁵ *The Daily Prophet*: Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.

⁶ Though Borgin & Burkes is by far the most infamous shop in Knockturn Alley, it is by no means the only one. There are a number of other “dodgy” stores as well as street vendors with wares of equal concern. (Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets: Ch. 4.)

History of the Problem

Unfortunately (or perhaps fortunately, depending on your research style), the Ministry's guidelines on trade are relatively vague; there is little specific information to be gleaned from reviewing the stated policies.

Obviously, this is an area which requires improvement. Having explored already the potential use of various magical objects by the Death Eaters, it is clear why the Ministry needs to impose stricter guidelines and regulations concerning the trade of *any* magical object.

Though there is much room for flexibility, there are a few key areas of historical background which are relevant to every delegate. First, the Ministry *does* divide goods into some semblance of categories, though these categories are often incomplete – sometimes frighteningly so. There are three main categories into which the Ministry divides magical objects which it believes need regulation. The first is “Class A Non-Tradeable Material” – a small group of items which cannot be bought, sold, or traded in the wizarding world under any circumstances. These items are acromantula eggs, dragon eggs, and

chimaera eggs. Strangely, the very dangerous venomous tentacula seed has long been classified as the only “Class C Non-Tradeable Material,” though no living wizard understands the need for the separate classification, as these seeds are still not allowed to be traded under any circumstances. The third category is “Class B Tradeable Materials” – objects which *can* be traded amongst wizards but which require regulation of some kind. Objects on this list include Romanian Longhorn horns, the Erumpent horn, the Erumpent exploding fluid, and the Erumpent tail. The regulations to which they are subject can vary, but all are strictly regulated, as they are either of high value or extremely dangerous.⁷

Though these regulations are in place, they are old, vague, and incomplete, leaving out important magical items which are increasingly in need of regulation. At the same time, one must consider the fact that any regulation is going to lead to an increase in items sold on the black market. As we are well aware, all of the Class A and

⁷ Information on all classes of tradeable and non-tradeable materials can be found at: http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Tradeable_Material.

C Non-Tradeable Materials have been bought and sold before, despite the Ministry's very best efforts.⁸ Therefore, any effort to improve the coherency of trade regulations will likely lead to an increase in the number of goods traded on the black market. Any attempt to redefine the guidelines should therefore take into consideration the issue of the black market.

In the same vein, delegates should consider the issue of Knockturn Alley specifically. Historically, this area has conducted an alarming amount of trade in Dark Objects. In fact, Borgin & Burkes – the most infamous shop in the Alley – was the first place of employment for Tom Riddle after he graduated from Hogwarts.⁹ This lends us two critical pieces of information: first, that Voldemort saw Knockturn Alley as a stepping-stone to his ascendancy to the position of the “Dark Lord” and second, that it contains

objects which would have been useful to him at that point. If these objects were useful to him then, at the height of his power, they are probably even more critical to him and his following right now. Therefore, it is important to consider the historical implications Voldemort's employment in Borgin & Burkes as well as the current objects which are sold there.

Each of these issues relates to a more general understanding of magical objects and their trade within the wizarding world. However, we also have a fair amount of information on individual objects, which would allow delegates to address the issue of trade in a highly specific manner. This, of course, is up to the committee to decide. Where general trade regulations would allow the committee to encompass nearly every object, they are also inherently vague and thus allow room for loopholes. On the other hand, very strict guidelines inherently leave out some objects. Each approach has its merits and its downsides; it will be up to the members of the committee to decide how best to regulate trade.

⁸ For a specific case study of the trade of a dragon egg on the black market (as well as the consequences of such action), see Rubeus Hagrid's story of Norbert, the Norwegian dragon, in *Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone*.

⁹ This behavior came as a shock to those who knew the young man at the time, though it would become clear later that this line of employment was merely indicative of the boy's future. *Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince*.

In terms of specific magical objects, there are five on which the Ministry has chosen to focus its attentions:

1. Poisonous candles – known to be sold in Knockturn Alley, these candles can poison those who touch or handle them in addition to those who are merely innocently standing too close
2. Flesh-eating slug repellent – known to be sold in Knockturn Alley, this material does exactly as the name suggests. While it does repel slugs, it also painfully burns the flesh of those who apply it to their skin
3. Enchanted music boxes – though rare, these magical music boxes are able to put any listener into an *enchanted* sleep, deeper than any regular sleep and therefore far more dangerous for the average wizard
4. Portkeys – although these are supposed to be registered with the Ministry, it is very clear that they can be created without

Ministry approval by very powerful wizards¹⁰

5. Time turners – though the Ministry supply was destroyed fairly recently, there is no official count of time-turners that are privately owned and thus available for trade

This is just a short list of objects which the Ministry considers particularly in need of regulation, based on our own research. There are a number of other objects, however, which should be considered. These should be discovered throughout your research and brought up during debate; the list provided here is by no means exhaustive and it is therefore imperative that you supplement it with your own research.

Topic 2: Death Eaters – Recruitment and Membership

Statement of the Problem

Though the Ministry recognizes that the overall threat of Voldemort and his Death Eaters is the most important

¹⁰ The former Minister for Magic, Cornelius Fudge, has confided to me that he once saw Dumbledore create a portkey in front of him.

issue facing the wizarding world today, we also recognize that it is important to attack each facet of the issue separately. Hence, instead of developing policy to address the very broad issue of the rise of Voldemort, we are instead focusing on devising a strategy that will severely trim his support. This topic is therefore far more specific than it may seem at first glance; it is actually *only* addressing a small piece of the broader problem.

In terms of recruitment tactics, Voldemort is an expert both at convincing and compelling wizards to join his team of dark wizards. This committee needs to discuss first ways in which to stop his recruitment of *volunteers*.¹¹ Voldemort is an extremely convincing wizard, using both threats and promises to instill fear and awe in any wizard that he confronts. Therefore, the Ministry needs to develop ways to keep promising wizards (young or old) away from Voldemort and loyal to the Ministry. There are a number of different ways in which this can be done, although our most recent efforts have

failed.¹² In essence, wizards need to see the Ministry as effective, important, and still relevant in the fight against Voldemort. If they don't believe that we are a viable option for protection against the Dark Lord, we will have no hope of winning anyone over.

In addition to his expertise in recruitment, Voldemort is incredibly effective when it comes to retaining members. His strategy is simple; once a wizard becomes a Death Eater, he is a member of Voldemort's support network for life. If a wizard wishes to defect at any point, he or she will be killed.¹³ Therefore, one of the most important goals of this committee is developing ways in which to encourage wizards to leave the ranks of the Dark Lord. This includes developing methods of protection for when wizards defect, as Voldemort makes it his mission to hunt

¹¹ Voldemort is an exceptionally skilled wizard, so his use of the Imperius Curse to control certain otherwise good wizards is well-known. It will be up to the committee to decide whether to address this very important but very difficult issue.

¹² This of course refers to our attempt to demonstrate that Harry Potter is an ally to the Ministry by having him come and go from our offices as much as possible. Unfortunately, Potter was less than cooperative and therefore the plan was unsuccessful. The committee will need to devise new ways to demonstrate the effectiveness and importance of the Ministry in the fight against Voldemort.

¹³ This does not mean that escape is impossible; there are certain recorded Death Eaters which have managed to escape the wrath of Lord Voldemort when reneging on their commitment to him. Unfortunately, these wizards are few and far between.

down any errant Death Eaters and murder them. Again, this is the most effective deterrent for any witch or wizard who might be thinking of potentially changing sides. *We must* make a move to the Ministry a more viable option for these supporters.

Lastly, we must attack directly his membership. The Death Eaters are a serious problem and we must trim their ranks as quickly and efficiently as possible. Though slowing recruitment of new members and encouraging defection will alleviate some of the problem, it is also critical that we look at ways in which to locate and punish current Death Eaters. This may be the single most important issue at hand, as sending a message to the Death Eaters about the seriousness of our mission will lend credence to our other threats and promises. Thus, it is imperative that we keep in mind the current membership of the Death Eaters and develop new strategies and initiatives for finding and then dealing with Voldemort's known and proven supporters.

History of the Problem

Tom Marvolo Riddle began collecting followers and supporters

while still a student at Hogwarts School for Witchcraft and Wizardry. He was smart, popular, and generally well-liked, in addition to being a brilliant wizard. This gained him many allies – people who sensed his greatness and gravitated toward the powerful young man. These allies would grow in ranks and would slowly morph into the small army that we now know as the Death Eaters. This group is divided into two layers; those closest to Lord Voldemort are entrusted with his most important tasks and are distinguished by the Dark Mark, which is seared into their skin.¹⁴ The other, broader support network simply consists of all the other wizards who openly support Voldemort.

The ideology of the Death Eaters is relatively simple: they want to eliminate all Muggle-born and half-blood wizards and return to a wizarding world that is ruled entirely by pure-blood families.¹⁵

¹⁴ The Dark Mark is a symbol which includes a skull and crossbones as well as a snake. When Voldemort wishes to summon his army of trusted advisors (the inner ring of the wider Death Eaters circle), the

¹⁵ A Muggle-born wizard is one who is born to non-magical parents. A half-blood, on the other hand, is one who only has some Muggle blood somewhere in his or her lineage. Muggle-born wizards are considered particularly offensive to the Death Eaters and are often referred to by the derogatory term “Mudblood.”

In reality, there are very, very few pure-blood families remaining, if indeed there are any at all.¹⁶ Death Eaters tend to ignore this fact and many families who wish to remain “pure-blood” strike any Muggle members from their family trees. Thus, they are pure-blood only in theory and not in reality. This does not stop the theoretical pure-blood Death Eaters from discriminating against any Muggle-borns or half-bloods. In essence, the Death Eaters are pure-blood supremacists and firmly believe that half-bloods and Muggle-borns are inherently inferior witches and wizards, unworthy of the same privileges as pure-bloods.

In addition to the issue of blood, the Death Eaters also believe that all other types of races are inferior to wizards. They therefore have no qualms about attacking Muggles or mistreating goblins, house elves, and other magical beings. Eventually, they would like to “subjugate the entire Muggle community

under Wizarding rule.”¹⁷ This poses an especially difficult and dangerous problem, as the wizarding community has long agreed to respect the co-existence of the Muggle world alongside our own world. It would be disastrous to attempt to destroy this working, peaceful co-existence. It is imperative that we keep the Death Eaters in check, especially when their long-term goals involve the Muggle world.

During Voldemort’s initial reign (which began sometime in the early 1970s and ended with his confrontation with Harry Potter in the 1980s), the Death Eaters were especially active within the magical and Muggle communities, attacking Muggles and terrorizing any wizards who either openly opposed Voldemort or for some other reason – like blood purity – were deemed unsuitable and inferior. Many witches and wizards see the current rebuilding of power as indicative of another reign similar to Voldemort’s last. This means that witches or wizards who may be unsure of where they stand could be convinced to join Voldemort’s army based on his past successes.

(http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_universe#Blood_purity.)

¹⁶ In fact, Voldemort himself is not a pure-blood, though he preaches for the supremacy of this type of wizard. Though few people are aware of it, Voldemort’s father was actually a Muggle, making him a half-blood. (Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.)

¹⁷ http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Death_Eater

The most critical piece of information about the Death Eaters – and why the issue is so important at this particular time – is of course that ten Death Eaters were broken out of Azkaban in January.¹⁸ Unfortunately, Voldemort was able to seduce the dementors and convince them to join his cause, meaning that they permitted a breakout of important Death Eater prisoners which the Ministry had worked hard to capture and imprison. This means that the Ministry will now have to work twice as hard to locate and then *recapture* the former prisoners, as they now have insider information about the Ministry's techniques and Azkaban itself.

The release of the Death Eaters is what has made so many witches and wizards so nervous; the situation continues to resemble that of Voldemort's reign so many years ago. Again, this encourages witches and wizards to stray toward the side of

power and potential victory, rather than continuing to support the Ministry. For those who do not support Voldemort, it merely makes the Ministry look incompetent and unable to protect any of its wizard citizens. If we hope to gain the support that we so desperately need and stop recruitment and the expansion of the Death Eaters' membership, it is critical that we find a way to address the issue of our decreased credibility after the break-out.

To provide slightly more information on the Death Eaters as a whole, we thought it was important to give some examples of specific Death Eaters and illustrate their behavior. The following four people are classified as extremely dangerous by the Ministry and are highly sought by our Aurors; our hope is that, by understanding these four wizards, one might better know and understand the Death Eaters as a whole.

1. *Antonin Dolohov*: He is a long-time supporter of Voldemort, working for him since Voldemort's first reign. Like all of the Death Eaters on this list, he was convicted of his crimes, sentenced to imprisonment in

¹⁸ The escapees were assisted by the dementors, who were convinced to conduct a "quiet rebellion" in which they stopped following Ministerial guidelines about proper behavior at Azkaban. This, of course, indicates that the dementors may only be the first of a number of magical species to defect and support Lord Voldemort. (Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince.)

-
- Azkaban, and subsequently escaped during the dementors' revolt in January.
2. *Bellatrix Lestrange*: She has been imprisoned in Azkaban twice and managed to escape twice, meaning that she is an extremely capable witch with extraordinary skill in the Dark Arts. She is also known for her torture of the Longbottoms shortly after Voldemort disappeared the first time.
3. *Rodolphus Lestrange*: The husband of Bellatrix Lestrange, he was imprisoned after his attack on the Longbottom family and has remained in Azkaban ever since. His brother, Rabastan, is also considered highly dangerous and escaped at the same time in January.
4. *Augustus Rookwood*: Rookwood is especially problematic for the Ministry, as he once worked in our Department of Mysteries and used his position of power to spy for Lord Voldemort. Like Lestrange, he has been imprisoned for many years,
- making him borderline insane as well as evil.¹⁹
- With the characteristics of these wizards in mind, our hope is that the committee members will be better equipped to construct resolutions that will adequately address the current membership and future recruitment practices of Voldemort and the Death Eaters. These resolutions should specifically address ways in which the Ministry can increase our own recruitment and retention of members as well as ways in which we can dissuade wizards from joining the ranks of Lord Voldemort. There are a number of ways to do this, including publishing information about ourselves as well as the Death Eaters, locating and following potential or known Death Eaters, and developing new recruitment practices for the Ministry. There are obviously many more possible solutions to this problem and we especially welcome any new, innovative ideas in resolutions.

¹⁹ A more complete list of Death Eaters and their crimes can be found at:
http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Death_Eaters.

Closing Remarks

Though this background guide will hopefully direct you in your research, it should simply serve as a starting point. The ideas contained in these pages must be improved and expanded. The questions which have been set forth for you are merely suggested questions – ones which I find to be of utmost importance. However, if during your research, you come across a question which you find to be equally important and stimulating, I urge you to pose it to your fellow committee members during session.

Additionally, we strongly discourage you from writing resolutions ahead of time. This is a crisis committee and there are a myriad of topics that could be addressed and a number of directions in which debate could go. It is therefore helpful to have *ideas* laid out for potential solutions to the problems before coming into session, but it will not be helpful for you to write a resolution ahead of time. It *will* be helpful for you to conduct research ahead of time and understand the issues as best as possible.

Though there are a number of wonderful sources available with information about the Harry Potter universe, there is no better replacement for this research than the books themselves. I strongly encourage you to read as many of them as possible before coming into committee, but I believe that Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix will be the most important to read, as our debate will begin where the book ends. With this in mind, please do not use any information about people or events, which is discovered in the sixth or seventh Harry Potter books. We chose for our committee to take place at a very specific time, so please do not utilize any information that is shared in these later books. Also, please keep in mind how much information the *Ministry* knows, as opposed to how much certain other characters in the novels may know.

Though there are times in which one's discretion may be used about whether one's character is privy to some information, please use your judgment.

With all of this in mind, I wish you the best of luck as you begin your research.

Bibliography

“Blood Purity.” Harry Potter Universe. 1 July 2010.

http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Harry_Potter_universe#Blood_purity.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Sorcerer’s Stone. Scholastic, Inc., 1998.

The Harry Potter Lexicon.

<http://www.hplex.info/wizard.html>. 1 July 2010.

Harry Potter.

http://harrypotter.wikia.com/wiki/Main_Page. 1 July 2010.

Rowling, J.K. Fantastic Beasts and Where to Find Them. Scholastic, Inc., 2001.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Chamber of Secrets. Scholastic, Inc., 1999.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire. Scholastic, Inc., 2000.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Order of the Phoenix. Scholastic, Inc., 2003.

Rowling, J.K. Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban. Scholastic, Inc., 1999.