



EthicalMUN VII

Watergate

Chairs:

Maddie Martinez

Gabby Santemma

Saskia Sommer

Sophia Thompson

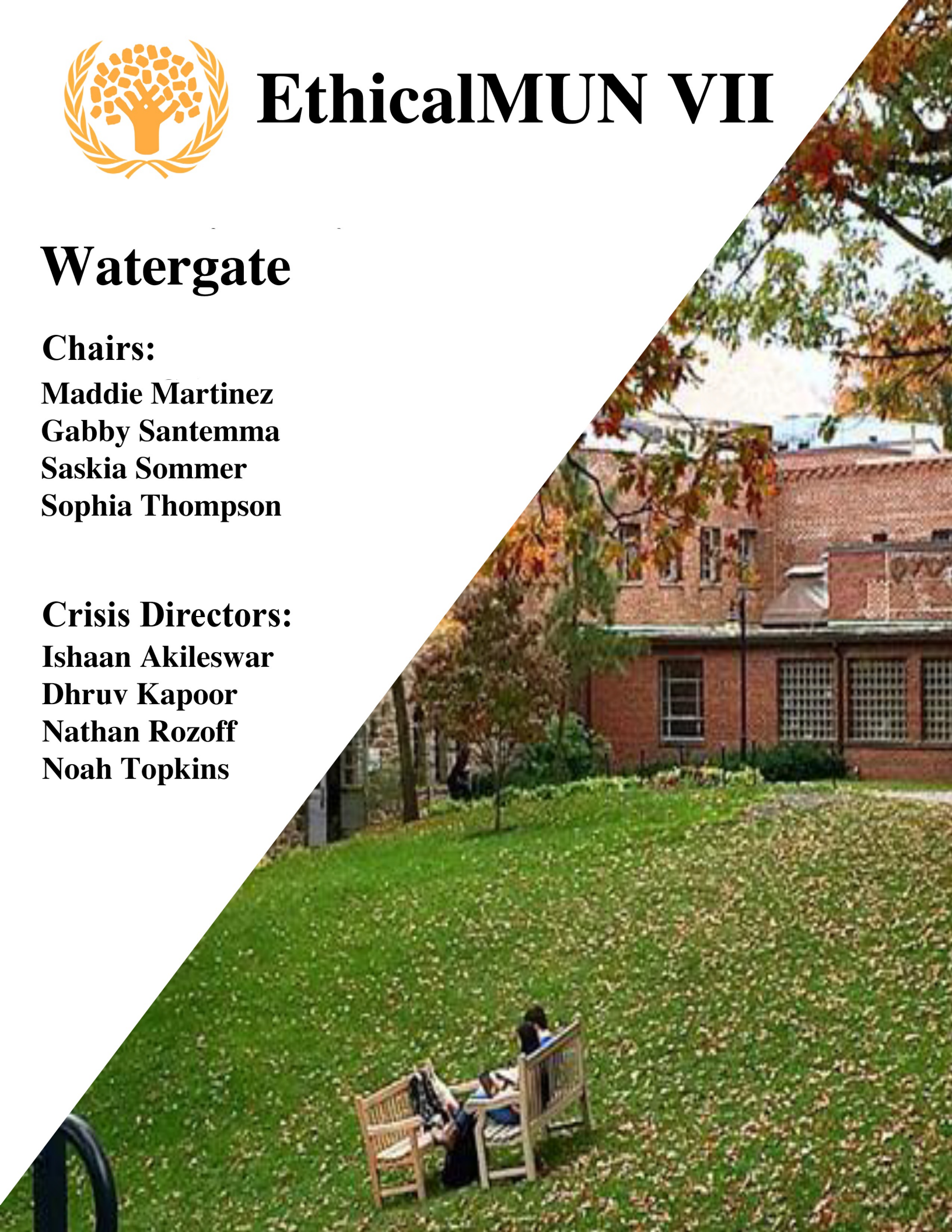
Crisis Directors:

Ishaan Akileswar

Dhruv Kapoor

Nathan Rozoff

Noah Topkins



Watergate Background Guide

Letter from the Chairs

Hello Delegates,

Welcome to Watergate! What began as a suspicious observation from a night guard at the infamous Watergate Hotel has come to be one of the most storied political scandals of our time. Now, it is up to you to step into the roles of the scandal's most prominent figures (and perhaps even learn what Watergate is) right in the heart of the Fieldston Upper School. This year will mark Fieldston's 7th annual Ethical MUN conference, and we are all counting down the days until May. As chairs and crisis staff, we are committed to fostering an environment that allows for involved debate, creative problem-solving, and immersive learning. Whether you are a seasoned Model UN delegate or this is your first time attending a conference, we will strive to provide an engaging experience that allows you to think in an innovative fashion, collaborate like a true diplomat, and perhaps partake in a Just Dance game or two.

My name is Saskia Sommer (she/her), and I am a sophomore at Fieldston. Apart from my full-time position as a matcha enthusiast, I am passionate about poetry/creative writing, educational equity, and tennis. New to MUN last year but forever a history nerd, I am especially excited to be chairing Watergate and cannot wait to have the best time with you all in May!

My name is Sophia Thompson, and I am a sophomore here at Fieldston. Apart from MUN, I love anything science-related, and I do FTC robotics and am in my school's engineering club. I also play field hockey and lacrosse and love playing and listening to music. This is my

fourth year at MUN, and I am so excited to be one of the co-chairs of the Watergate committee, and to meet you all!

My name is Maddie Martinez, and I am also a sophomore at Fieldston. I am passionate about science research, specifically oncology, and hope to go into medicine. I also play lacrosse, tennis, and all percussion instruments. I am so excited to be a chair of the Watergate committee, and can't wait to hear all your amazing ideas!

We are beyond elated to watch you take us beyond the walls of Fieldston and into the depths of the Watergate Hotel circa the 1972 National Democratic Convention. We truly mean it when we say reach out with any inquiries that come to mind, we look forward to reading your position papers and making MUN history... not any other kind.

Please feel free to email us at 26gesantemma@ecfs.org, 26spsommer@ecfs.org, 26mcmartinez@ecfs.org, and 26sathompson@ecfs.org if you have any questions!

Best,

Your Watergate Chairs and Crisis Staff

COMMITTEE PROCEDURE

Committee Procedure

This committee will follow the standard parliamentary procedure for Model UN. As a crisis committee, we will be in a perpetual moderated caucus. This means that once the debate is opened, delegates must motion for moderated or unmoderated caucuses. If not, the dais will revert back to the perpetual moderated caucus. Delegates in this committee should be prepared to write three kinds of legislation: directives, comuniques, and press releases.

Perpetual Moderated Caucus:

Unlike GA or Specialized Committees, Crisis Committees will not have a speakers list, and will operate under a perpetual moderated caucus. A perpetual moderated caucus is a never-ending moderated caucus that runs for the entirety of the committee with no set topic. For this committee, the perpetual moderated caucus will have a 30

second speaking time. This perpetual moderated caucus will be suspended when a delegate proposes a motion. For example, if a motion for a five-minute moderated caucus passes, the perpetual moderated caucus will be suspended, and the committee will enter the five-minute moderated caucus. If there are no points or motions on the floor, the chair will revert to the perpetual moderated caucus.

Relevant Points and Motions:

- Point of Inquiry
- Point of Information
- Point of Personal Privilege
- Point of Order
- Motion to Open Debate
- Motion for a Moderated Caucus
- Motion for an Unmoderated Caucus
- Motion for a Round Table
- Motion to Introduce All Papers

on the Dais

- Motion to Introduce an

Amendment

- Motion to divide the Question

- Motion to Enter Voting

Procedure

- Motion to Adjourn Debate

Written Papers

Crisis Notes: Crisis notes, sometimes referred to as personal directives, are ways for delegates to use their own portfolio powers to change the flow of committee.

Crisis notes must be addressed to Crisis and should be delivered to the dais. Crisis notes do not need to be written in clause form but should be clear and detailed. Once again, crisis notes will only be met if the requests lie in the realms of a delegate's portfolio powers. Crisis notes are the most personally powerful and dangerous piece of legislation in committee. Good crisis notes should direct the flow of the committee in a

direction that benefits oneself and the whole committee as well. Before sending a note, make sure this is in character with your delegate. Crisis notes do not have to be voted on by the entire committee, as they are unilateral. If delegates choose, two or more delegates may collaborate to use their portfolio powers to write a joint crisis note. Portfolio powers will be given during committee session I.

Directives: Directives, the most common piece of legislation, are sponsored by one or more delegates. Directives use the entire power of the committee to solve and respond to crisis updates. They should be written in clauses; however, unlike clauses for General Assemblies, the operative clauses include actionable words, such as "creates" or "deploys." Also, by their nature, they are shorter than full-length resolutions. Directives require a simple majority from the committee to be passed. The dais will

decide the exact number of signatories, sponsors, and votes that each directive requires at the beginning of each session. To read directives aloud, delegates must motion for directives to be presented. This must be followed with another motion, either a motion for more debate or to go into voting procedure. Multiple directives may be passed in a crisis committee, and the crisis directors will provide crises based on whatever legislation was passed in committee.

Communiques: Communiques are a way for delegates to address people, entities, or other organizations not represented in the committee. Communiques can request special information, individual meetings with bodies outside the committee, or certain materials or resources. Each request must be in the realm of the delegate's portfolio powers (i.e., if a Bella is asking to assassinate another member). Each

communique should be written as a formal letter, with as much specificity as possible. Remember, if you don't provide the details in your letters, we will make our own. These should be delivered to the chairs but addressed to Crisis.

Press Releases: Press releases are ways for the whole committee to express sentiments and updates to the public. Press releases will be presented in the same style as directives and require the same amount of sponsors and signatories as directives. Keep in mind that press releases do not do much to alter the flow of the committee in general.

Blocs: Blocs are groups of allies that usually vote together on issues and may have some sort of common end goal. In this committee, everyone is working towards the same goal, so there may not be blocs, but alliances will be common. Remember to think about what your position wants as an end goal. Think

about how to achieve that and who to ally with in order to do so. Like all committees, collaborating with other delegates is strongly recommended. However, in a crisis committee, it is also encouraged that one stays in character and acts in accordance with their character's motivations.

HISTORICAL BACKGROUND

The year was 1972, and Richard Nixon was President of the United States. In the early summer heat of June 17th, a break-in occurred at the Watergate Office Building that served as home to the National Democratic Committee. A band of five Nixon associates and high-ranking FBI members entered the building with a simple, twisted goal: to obtain information about the potential frontrunner for the Democratic Party in the upcoming election. Devising methods to sneak in and get hold of said information, the perpetrators placed tape on the doors, and this caught guard Frank Wills'

attention. Notifying the police, the station received a call from the Watergate Hotel. With all involved burglars arrested on the spot, it was up to journalists to forge the connection between the bandits and Nixon. Bob Woodward and Earl Bernstein, two novice reporters with a typewriter and a dream to ascend the *Washington Post* ranks, were quintessential in drawing said ties. Their reporting prompted Congress to launch its own investigation which included hearings by the Senate Watergate Committee. The committee heard testimonies from key witnesses, including former White House counsel John Dean. The White House claimed no involvement in the scandal. All the while Nixon's team worked fervently to conceal evidence of the President's hand in Watergate. Even so, all would eventually come to light. These investigations played a pivotal role in exposing the truth and holding those responsible accountable as well as sparking

debates around the legal system and ethics within politics. Furthermore, it was a turning point in American journalism, showing the power of the truth. Journalism surrounding Watergate led to the involvement of the American people in the trial. In seeing the corruption and abuse of power within the Nixon administration, the American population generally gained a feeling of mistrust towards the government.

CURRENT CRISIS

It's June 17th, 1972, and five men have just been arrested after breaking into the Democratic National Committee Headquarters. They were caught with bugging devices, along with thousands of dollars in cash, and rolls of film. Nixon has just resigned, and trials are about to begin. But oh no, what's this, we just got the call of another break-in, but this time in the Republican National Headquarters! Now it is time to figure out who, what, when, and

why these break-ins are happening, and hold the leaders accountable for their actions.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

What is the motivation of each player and Watergate and what do they have to gain or lose?

Where do the allegiances of your position fundamentally lie?

What might the implications of a break-in at the Republican National Headquarters be for each respective individual?

How does government involvement in Watergate affect trust (or lack thereof)?

POSITIONS

Richard Nixon

Nixon was the 37th President of the United States and the first to resign from office. His presidency was marred by the Watergate

scandal, a political scandal that involved a break-in (orchestrated by Nixon administration officials) at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters. Nixon worked to cover up his involvement in the break-in, but to no avail. In the real world, he faced impeachment charges and ultimately chose to resign.

Carl Bernstein Bernstein, a reporter for the Washington Post, investigated and reported on the Watergate scandal. He worked relentlessly with Bob Woodward to uncover the truth and played a key role in unraveling the administration's crime and subsequent cover-up. Their investigative journalism exposed the extent of corruption and abuse of power within the Nixon administration, leading to widespread public outrage and calls for accountability.

Bob Woodward Woodward, a colleague of Bernstein at the Washington Post,

investigated and reported on the Watergate scandal. Their investigative journalism exposed the extent of corruption and abuse of power within the Nixon administration, leading to widespread public outrage and calls for accountability.

G. Gordon Liddy

Liddy was a former FBI agent and member of the Committee to Re-elect the President (CREEP). He orchestrated the break-in at the Democratic National Committee Headquarters at the Watergate Complex. His efforts represent the pinnacle of CREEP's attempts to sabotage and undermine Nixon's political opponents. In the real world, Liddy was charged with conspiracy, burglary, and illegal wiretapping and sentenced to a 20-year prison term.

John Dean

Dean served as White House Counsel to Nixon during the Watergate scandal,

becoming a central figure in the events. Dean chose to cooperate with investigators and provided crucial testimony against the administration; he played a major role in unraveling the conspiracy.

John Mitchell

Mitchell served as the Attorney General of the US under Nixon and played a key role in Nixon's re-election campaign. Like Liddy, he was also a member of CREEP. Mitchell was linked to a secret campaign fund that financed the Watergate break-in. He was ultimately charged with conspiracy, perjury, and obstruction of justice. In the real world, he served 19 months in federal prison, becoming the first Attorney General to be convicted of a crime.

Archibald Cox

Cox served as the Special Prosecutor during the Watergate scandal. He was appointed to investigate the administration's

wrongdoings, yet ultimately fell victim to a "constitutional showdown" with Nixon. Nixon fired Cox during the infamous "Saturday Night Massacre," raising questions of executive power. Despite his dismissal, Cox set a crucial precedent for independent investigations (like that of Woodward and Bernstein) into governmental misconduct. **Cox may expect to be dismissed in the midst of the committee (if this occurs, they will be assigned a new position).

Mark Felt

Associate Director of the FBI Mark Felt, AKA Deep Throat, provided crucial information to Woodward and Bernstein. Felt anonymously leaked information to Woodward, helping the journalists to uncover the administration's deep-seeded corruption. This contributed to widespread public scrutiny and Nixon's ultimate resignation. Felt's identity remained

protected until 2005, and he spent his life weighing the consequences of action and security.

Judge John Sirica

Judge Sirica presided over the trial of individuals involved in the Watergate break-in. Known for his no-nonsense approach, the judge questioned witnesses rigorously and was instrumental in uncovering the truth behind the scandal. He compelled Nixon to deliver crucial evidence (notably White House tape recordings) that ultimately implicated members of the administration.

Samuel Dash

Dash was the chief counsel and staff director of the US Senate Watergate Committee. He contributed greatly to the committee, using his legal expertise and commitment to justice to expose the administration's illegal activity. The Committee played a crucial

role in uncovering Nixon's corruption, investigating both the scandal and any additional illegal conduct occurring during the 1972 election. This position also represents the Committee's interests.

Martha Mitchell

The outspoken wife of Nixon's most trusted associate, John Mitchell, Martha Mitchell was a whistleblower at the height of the Watergate scandal. Known for her outlandish comments and personality, she is alleged to have been kidnapped by FBI members in the California Hotel after communicating, at length, with the press. Washington higher-ups are divided on whether or not to believe her, could her silenced perspective be a valuable one or was Martha just being Martha?

Message To Delegates:

Notes to Crisis are meant to derail the story's path and add variety to debate.

Although they can be entertaining, we request that every crisis note sent is detailed and specific.

Bibliography:

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/national/longterm/watergate/articles/060373-1.htm#:~:text=Dean%20has%20told%20inves>

<https://www.britannica.com/event/Watergate-Scandal>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/part1.html>

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/timeline.html>

<https://www.cnn.com/2017/05/17/politics/watergate-scandal-look-back/index.html>

<https://www.nytimes.com/1973/04/22/archives/watergate-aug-29-1972-april-17-1973-watergate-revelations.html>

<https://www.history.com/news/martha-mitchell-watergate-kidnapping>