

iMUNC 2019
Background Guide
iHPH



Internal Hawkins Public Hearing

Chair: Lily Krug

Director: Lucy Varenick

Other Staff: []

Hello Delegates

Hi, my name is Lily Krug and welcome to the first ever Stranger Things Committee at iMunc 2019! I am very excited to meet and work with all of you. I am a junior at the NYC iSchool and am the one of the co-presidents of our Model UN club. But, in addition to Model UN, I also enjoy creative writing as well as reading and photography. And I think you could guess from this committee, I also like to watch Stranger Things. In fact, it is one of my favorite shows which is why I wanted to run this committee in the first place. I hope you are as excited for iMUNC 2019 as I am!

- Lily Krug, Co-President of Model UN Club, iMUNC 2019

Hi everyone, my name is Lucy Varenick and I'm a junior at the NYC iSchool and I am the co-chair for iHPH. I enjoy debating in Model UN as well as dance. I'm super excited to meet all of you and hope you are eager to solve the problems occurring in Hawkins, Indiana.

- Lucy Varenick, Co-Chair, iMUNC 2019

Secretariat Notes

Dear Delegates,

The iSchool Model United Nations Conference specializes in creativity and uniqueness. By participating in our year long club we had the opportunity to create iMUNC for you to have an incredible model UN experience alongside members from all 5 boroughs, we are able to build and run an engaging and educational conference to help you become better delegates.

iMUNC was created last year and was a resounding success so we felt we should continue with what we did then: Chair and delegate independence. We pride ourselves on giving massive delegate freedoms in order to make sure that a story is told not just by the chairs but by delegates. Our theme this year of diplomacy under pressure will create an environment where delegates will be interacting with the world and act in its chaos. We hope to give delegates the opportunity to react to high stakes high risk situations where they are the deciding factor.

With seven committees with OC, Shows, Movies, and books we pride ourselves on our creativity. iMUNC 2019 will embody leadership skills, collaboration skills, diplomacy, Creativity (and a tiny bit of chaos).

A special thanks to our entire Secretariat for making this possible.

Sincerely,

Carmen Simons

Lucas Kulin

Alliyah Logan

Lily Krug

Secretary General

Secretary General

President

President

Background

The widely popular TV show *Stranger Things* had its first season premier on July 15, 2016 and was actually only the eighth Netflix original series that Netflix had created while today there are over twenty. *Stranger Things* is a show set in a fictional world that is both very similar and very different to our own.

Although the series technically has two seasons out, for the purpose of this committee we will be focussing on the events that happened only in season one (episodes 1-8). If you have also watched season two you may pull ideas from this but you should know that the events and ideas in this committee have happened just after season one ends, and your resolution ideas shouldn't be a copy of what happened in season two. The actions of you, the delegates, will diverge the events that occur in season two. This is good and you should not be afraid to do this.

While I do understand that it may be difficult or too time consuming to watch the entire first season, it is strongly recommended that you do. But if you are unable to before the start of the committee, everything that you need to know about the show will be in this background guide.

It is also important to note the time period and location of the show. *Stranger Things* takes place in a small town called Hawkins in Indiana and therefore you

should all remember that people usually move about either on bikes or in cars (or by foot if it's a short distance). Lastly it is very important to remember that the show is set in the 1980s meaning a few things. First off in the world, this is during the Cold War which could be important when deciding the cause of weird behavior in the town. Also because of the time period it is very crucial to remember that the technology the characters have access to is very different and there is less of it. The kids in the show are often seen using walkie talkies to communicate while the adults are seen using landline phones.

It should be said that there will also be characters in this simulation that may not be in the show, or characters in the show that will have larger roles in this. Here, and for every character it is important to think about their motives and what they may care about based on the character descriptions at the end of this background guide and what may be revealed about them based on watching the show. For the purpose of this simulation, no role is too small to speak because every character included here matters and has something to say.

The last two things to note before you dive into the plot of Stranger Things are that you should be forming blocs logically based on who you think your character would agree, although it is up to you who you work with.

The Story

Episode	Description
1	<p>On November 6, 1983, in a U.S. Department of Energy laboratory in the town of Hawkins, Indiana, a scientist is attacked by an unseen creature. While bicycling home from a Dungeons & Dragons session with his friends, 12-year-old Will Byers encounters the creature and vanishes. The next day, a buzz-cut young girl wearing a hospital gown steals food from a local diner. The owner, Benny, takes pity on her and feeds her before calling social services. From a tattoo on her arm, he learns that her name is Eleven. A woman posing as a social worker arrives and murders Benny. Armed men search the diner for Eleven, but she escapes. Will's mother Joyce believes she hears Will's voice on a distorted phone call, but her phone short circuits. Will's friends Mike, Dustin, and Lucas search for Will in the woods and find Eleven.</p>
2	<p>The boys bring Eleven to Mike's house, where she sleeps in the basement. The next day, Mike nicknames her "El". She says that "bad people" are looking for her and refuses to meet Mike's parents. Scientists from the laboratory find a substance oozing from the walls of Joyce's home. At Mike's home, Eleven recognizes and points out Will in a photo. Dustin and Lucas want to inform Mike's parents about Eleven, but she uses psychokinesis to stop them. While searching for Will, Mr. Clarke, the boys' science teacher, discovers a scrap of a hospital gown outside the laboratory grounds. Mike's older sister Nancy goes with her friend Barb to a party at the popular Steve's house. Will's brother Jonathan investigates the woods where Will went missing. Hearing screaming, he runs to help but finds only Steve, Nancy, and their friends roughhousing around Steve's swimming pool. He secretly photographs them. Barb, left alone by the poolside after cutting her hand, vanishes. Joyce receives another call from Will, hears music from his room, and sees something coming through the wall.</p>
3	<p>Barb wakes up in an empty and decaying pool. She screams for Nancy and attempts to climb out but is dragged down. Joyce strings Christmas lights around her home to talk to Will, who can turn them on and off. Hawkins Lab director Dr. Martin Brenner allows police chief Hopper to view the lab's security camera footage, but he realizes it's fake. He and his deputies research Hawkins Lab, Brenner, and a woman named Terry Ives who claimed her daughter was taken by Brenner. Eleven has a flashback in which Brenner, whom she calls "Papa," has her put in solitary confinement. Nancy worries about Barb, who is missing. Steve and his friends discover Jonathan's photographs, destroying them and his camera. Nancy finds Barb's car while searching for her and sees the creature in the woods. Joyce establishes a code with Will using the lights, which he uses to tell her that he is alive but unsafe. He tells Joyce to run as a creature begins to climb through her wall. The boys secretly commence "Operation Mirkwood" as Eleven leads</p>

	<p>them to Will. However, Will's apparent body is discovered in the water at a quarry, causing Mike, Dustin and Lucas to be devastated.</p>
4	<p>Eleven proves to the boys that Will is still alive by making contact through Mike's walkie-talkie. Joyce goes to the morgue to view the body and refuses to believe it is Will. The boys give Eleven a makeover so they can sneak her into school. Joyce hears Will in her living room wall. Tearing away the wallpaper, she sees him behind a membrane. At school, Eleven uses Mr. Clarke's ham radio to channel Will talking to his mother. Joyce demolishes the wall with an axe but reveals only her front porch. Nancy discovers a figure behind Barb in Jonathan's photo. Jonathan realizes that the figure matches his mother's description of the creature: a humanoid figure with long arms and no face. Nancy tells the police about her missing friend and subsequently admits to her mother that she slept with Steve. When she tells Steve about the police, she is irritated that he cares only about not getting in trouble with his father. Hopper confronts the state trooper who found Will's body and beats him until he admits he was ordered to lie. Hopper goes to the morgue and finds that Will's supposed body is a dummy. He breaks into Hawkins laboratory.</p>
5	<p>Will's father Lonnie assures Joyce her experiences are hallucinations. Hopper discovers a portal in the basement of the lab but is knocked out by the lab's guards. He wakes at home and discovers a hidden microphone. Sheriff's deputies inform Hopper that Barb's car was found, but Hopper finds the state's involvement suspicious. The boys determine Will is trapped in an alternate dimension Eleven calls the "Upside Down," and he is being pursued by a monster similar to a Demogorgon. After Will's funeral, science teacher Mr. Clarke tells the boys that a high-energy spacetime tear could create a passage between dimensions. Using their compasses, they search for a disruption in the Earth's electromagnetic field. Eleven remembers encountering the creature during a lab experiment, and afraid, she redirects the compasses. Lucas notices and confronts her. Mike defends her, he and Lucas fight, and Eleven telekinetically flings Lucas off Mike. While Dustin and Mike tend to the unconscious Lucas, Eleven disappears. In the woods, Nancy and Jonathan find a wounded deer. The creature drags the deer away, and Nancy follows the trail of blood to a portal to the Upside Down. She crawls through and discovers the creature feasting upon the deer. She snaps a twig and draws the creature's attention.</p>
6	<p>Jonathan pulls Nancy back through the portal, saving her from the monster. Later, Steve sees them together and assumes they are dating. Nancy and Jonathan resolve to kill the monster and purchase supplies from an army surplus store. During a fist fight with Steve, Jonathan inadvertently assaults a police officer and is arrested. Joyce and Hopper track down Terry Ives, who is catatonic and tended by her sister Becky. Becky explains that Terry underwent Project MKUltra testing while unknowingly pregnant; she believed her daughter Jane was kidnapped by Brenner at birth. Joyce and Hopper conclude Eleven is likely Jane. Eleven</p>

	<p>shoplifts Eggo waffles. She recalls being asked to contact the monster and accidentally opening the portal to the Upside Down in the laboratory basement. While searching for Eleven, Mike and Dustin are ambushed by school bullies Troy and James. Troy holds Dustin at knifepoint and demands Mike make a suicidal jump into the lake where Will's body was discovered. Mike jumps but is levitated to safety by Eleven, who scares away the bullies. The trio then reconcile with a hug and head back to Mike's home. Lucas realizes agents from the laboratory are also heading to Mike's house.</p>
<p>7</p>	<p>Lucas warns Mike via walkie-talkie that government agents are en route. Mike, Dustin, and Eleven flee. Eleven telekinetically flips a van that blocks their path, and the kids escape. Lucas reconciles with Mike and Eleven. Joyce and Hopper are called to the police station because of Jonathan's assault. Jonathan and Nancy reveal their knowledge of the monster to Joyce and Hopper. The group contacts Mike and his friends and they rendezvous. They ask Eleven to search for Will and Barb, but her earlier feats have left her too weak to find them. To amplify Eleven's powers, they break into the middle school and build a sensory-deprivation tank. Eleven finds Barb's corpse with a slug-like creature crawling out of her mouth. With Joyce's help, she finds Will alive, hiding in the Upside Down "Castle Byers," his backyard fort. Hopper and Joyce break into Hawkins Laboratory but are apprehended by security guards. Nancy and Jonathan resolve to kill the monster and steal their hunting gear back from the police station. In the Upside Down, the monster breaks into the fort where Will is hiding.</p>
<p>8</p>	<p>After making a deal with Brenner, Hopper and Joyce enter the Upside Down where they find Will unconscious in the town library and revive him. Nancy and Jonathan booby-trap the Byers' home, then cut themselves to attract the monster with their blood. Steve arrives, intending to apologize to Jonathan, just as the monster attacks. The monster springs the trap and is injured, but escapes back to the Upside Down. Eleven and the boys hide in the middle school. Mike asks Eleven to a school dance, the Snow Ball, and kisses her. The military storms the school to re-capture Eleven, but she kills them and collapses. As Brenner tries to take her, the monster appears and apparently kills him. The monster corners the kids in a classroom, but Eleven pins it against a wall. She disintegrates the monster and vanishes, devastating Mike. Will is hospitalized and reunited with his family and friends. Hopper is reluctantly picked up by a black car. One month later, Nancy and Steve are back together, and both are friends with Jonathan. Hopper leaves Eggo waffles in a box in the woods. Will coughs up a slug-like creature and has a vision of the world as the Upside Down, but he hides this from his family.</p>

- [https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stranger_Things#Season_1_\(2016\)](https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Stranger_Things#Season_1_(2016))

The final scene of Stranger Things season one takes place on Christmas Eve. Everyone in Hawkins seems mostly happy and ready to move on with their lives, except of course Dustin, Mike, and Lucas who still miss their friend Eleven. Mr. and Mrs. Holland (Marsha) are also upset as they are still grieving the loss of their daughter Barbara (Barb). But other than that the air seems clear and people seem happy to spend time with their families over Christmas. But then as the new year rolls around, and the cold winter months bring snow for children to play in, some odd things begin to happen. Things such as fallen trees in places trees don't grow. Large amounts of snow, as in the whole backyard of someone's house missing in the morning when it was there the night before. Houses creaking that never used to creak as if it's a very very old house, but most odd of all is the lights. Those involved in the original Will Byers mystery don't say much about how there lights worked and how this related to the Upside Down as they have pact of silence with the laboratory, but lights throughout the town flicker and sometimes light flashes or is shown in plays where lamps don't even exist.

It is unclear what the cause of these things is, but no one thinks much of the Demogorgon because according to the children and some adults (like Jim Hopper himself), this creature is gone forever, taking Eleven with it. Although Mike and his friends believe that Eleven is still out there, they have trouble convincing the

adults of this. Will Byers though is continuing to have flashbacks to the upside down, but has yet to tell anyone. Regardless, as more peculiar events occur, a town meeting is called to discuss the future of Hawkins itself.

Documents

During committee, delegates are allowed to pass notes about each other. They are also allowed to pass crisis to the dias. Because this is a crisis committee, instead of resolutions, directives will be passed to work towards a solution.

A Quick Note

Although there are two topics, we will not be voting on which to discuss. Instead you will be discussing both throughout committee as two parts of the same committee.

Topic A: What Happened To Eleven

Introduction

It has been exactly two weeks since Christmas, but Mike is still completely upset about Eleven. Besides his friends, no one really talks about her. Those who didn't know about her don't believe the crazy boy going on about some girl with powers, and those who did know about her are just trying to move on. That is, if that's possible. Mike, Lucas, Dustin, and Will are going to desperate means to convince the town and although no one has outright said they do yet, suspicion has grown.

Although they don't talk about it outloud, Jim Hopper and Joyce Byers definitely whisper about her when they are alone. Joyce knows she was (or is still) real, but Hopper has some other kind of connection. He really, really misses her. Although Joyce doesn't quite understand this or why he feels this way, she is still there to support him.

But Hopper keeps his feelings pretty quite, although once or twice he has been spotted talking to Mike and his friends. He tells them he keeps his feelings quite because he needs to seem level and sturdy as he is the town sheriff, and getting caught up in rumors spread and told by kids wouldn't be a good idea. But secretly he kind of wants to tell the world how he feels, so to speak.

Current Status

Mike, Will, Dustin, and Lucas are doing everything they can to prove that Eleven existed and then going beyond that to find her. They aren't sure if she is alive but they also aren't sure that she is dead. They just have suspicions that she is still alive. But they don't just want to spread awareness, they also want help in the search for her. Mike is definitely trying the hardest to get her back, but they are all trying.

They have done everything from stopping other people outside of school and stores to putting up flyers. They really just want the whole situation to get attention. And although Mike is leading this he can't help but question if she really is gone. It makes him very sad to think about so instead he just continues to try to get people to help him find her.

Hopper believes she's still out there and brings food to the little box like thing in the woods every few days, but doesn't tell anyone. Sometimes when he goes, the food from last time is still there and sometimes it isn't. But he knows that doesn't mean Eleven is the one taking it. He also knows not to tell Mike about this because it would make him much more confused. And although no one wants to admit it, some people are starting to believe the kids stories.

Questions to Consider/Committee Mission

- Is Eleven alive or dead?
- If she's alive where is she?
 - How is she surviving?
 - How will this affect her future?
- If she's dead, how does the town work with Mike and his friends to help them cope with this?
- What on earth does Hopper really think?
- How does this affect the town? What does it mean for them if she is alive?

Topic B: Strange Events and The Future

Introduction and History

The only interesting thing about Hawkins, Indiana before Will went missing was the very secretive National Laboratory placed in Hawkins in which unknown government experiments took place. But other than that, Hawkins was just another small suburban town with a local school and a bunch of local families. Nothing odd ever happened. That was, until something went wrong. A monster was released, a girl ran away, and a local middle school boy went missing.

Although the whole town knew that Will Byers had mysteriously disappeared and then reappeared several days later, not many people knew about the monster or the girl. This girl, Eleven was now gone, or so those who had known her suspected and everything seemed okay until odd events began occurring. Again.

People are in distress. Parents are afraid to let their kids out to play. Kids are afraid to be alone anywhere. Even teenagers don't want to go anywhere without a group. And although everyone is scared, no one knows what to do. Sure there are ideas, like maybe that laboratory knows something, or maybe the Sheriff, Jim Hopper, knows what to do. But really every idea is just whispers. Which is why there is a town meeting called to figure out a plan.

Current Status

In only two weeks, a town of mostly peace and quiet has become a place of tension where everyone who lives there is scared. Trees seem to have grown overnight and fallen down in the morning. Places where there aren't lights glow as if there are. Lights constantly flicker, even when there is nothing wrong with them. Large amounts of snow disappear almost overnight, and brand new houses that have never creaked, do with every step taken. Sometimes people even seem to see a purplish goo ooze out of a crack or there is a second where they seem to be in a darker, different version of Hawkins when they walk through doorways.

So of course, everyone turns to Jim Hopper to give them answers. He wants to help but just doesn't know what to do. It seems that something odd happens daily and it is just too much for him to deal with a new mysterious problem everyday. Nancy along with the help of Steve have had ideas about how and what to do, but when they approached Hopper he shot them down and told them not to get involved at all. In fact, he has told everyone this.

Questions to Consider/Committee Mission

- What is the cause of what is happening?
- Why is this happening?

- Can we stop it?
- What can we do?
- What does everyone know?
- How does this affect the future of the town?

Character Description

CHARACTERS (with age)	CHARACTER DESCRIPTIONS
Mike Wheeler (12)	Mike goes to Hawkins Middle School. He and his friends find Eleven in the woods while looking for Will. They befriend her and she helps them figure out what is happening in Hawkins

	and how to stop it. He has a crush on Eleven.
Will Byers (12)	Will goes to Hawkins Middle School. While riding his bike home from Mike's house he is taken to the Upside Down by the Demogorgon. He communicates with his mom and friends through the use of lights, walkie-talkies, and radio stations. He is rescued but still doesn't feel like he's completely back to normal.
Dustin Henderson (12)	Dustin goes to Hawkins Middle School. He and his friends find Eleven in the woods while looking for Will. They befriend her and she helps them figure out what is happening in Hawkins and how to stop it.
Lucas Sinclair (12)	Lucas goes to Hawkins Middle School. He and his friends find Eleven in the woods while looking for Will. They befriend her and she helps them figure out what is happening in Hawkins and how to stop it.
Nancy Wheeler (16)	Nancy goes to Hawkins High School. She is very smart and studious. She connects with Jonathan and they try to find and kill the Demogorgon (she has seen it and been to the Upside Down). Throughout the season, we see her become more rebellious but also see that she is very brave and caring. She knows about Eleven. She is dating Steve Harrington by the end of season one.
Jonathan Byers (16)	Jonathan goes to Hawkins High School. He is very upset after his brother disappears. He helps his mother but is also worried about her throughout the season. He is very caring and smart, but also introverted and antisocial. He is also very brave. Along with Nancy, he tries to catch and kill the Demogorgon (he has seen it and knows about Eleven).
Steve Harrington (17)	Steve Harrington goes to Hawkins High School. He is initially shown as a popular boy who is a little mean. Soon though it is shown that he really cares about Nancy Wheeler. He helps Nancy and Jonathan "kill" the Demogorgon and turns out to be a caring person. He is dating Nancy by the end of season one.
Jim Hopper (39)	Jim Hopper is the town sheriff and clearly cares a lot about Hawkins. Although he can sometimes seem rough around the edges, he has a very big heart
Joyce Byers (38)	Joyce is the mom of Jonathan and Will. She is very generous and overall a very good person. She only wants what is best for

	her kids. After season one, she seems more worried while keeping her kind and caring attitude. She becomes very close to Jim Hopper throughout the season and together they discover a lot of what is happening in the lab. They go to the upside down together to find Will. She has seen the Demogorgon and knows Eleven was (or is) real.
Scott Clarke (36)	Scott is the Hawkins Middle School science teacher and is very likeable and supportive even of the kids when they seem to be asking crazy questions. He helps them to retrieve
Katherine Glass (53)	Works in the lab but doesn't know what was happening. She continuously sees lights flicker but doesn't think much of it.
Rachel Charter (34)	Works in the lab and knows about the testing on children but has never seen Eleven. She wasn't supposed to know about the purple ooze but has seen it anyway.
William Gibbons (45)	Works in the lab and has a sense of what was going on without completely knowing it. Has seen ooze but hasn't told anyone.
Karen Wheeler (38)	She is the mom of Nancy and Mike. She overbearing and very worried about her children. She is also a bit oblivious.
Ted Wheeler (45)	He is the dad of Nancy and Mike and is very oblivious. He seems very bored with life as well.
Calvin Powell (37)	Works in the Hawkins Police Department as an officer. He is one of the officers who looked for Will.
Marsha Holland (52)	She is the mother of Barbara Holland (who died). She is seen as kind but also very upset about her daughter.
Mr. Holland (58)	He is the father of of Barbara Holland (who died). He is shown as jolly man besides being devastated at the loss of his daughter.
Claudia Henderson (49)	She is Dustin's mother and is shown to be very caring and kind while also being worried about her son.
Mr. Sinclair (40)	He is the father of Lucas. He is shown to be a little dismissive of Lucas but still caring.
Mrs. Sinclair (37)	She is the mother of Lucas. She is shown as caring but also able to tease her son.
Charlie Green (64)	Charlie is the Hawk Theater Manager and is shown as a man

	who cares about the town and his work.
Russell Coleman (55)	Russell is the Hawkins Middle School principal. He is often skeptical of what happening and of what the kids are doing.
Jennifer Hayes (12)	Goes to Hawkins Middle School and was seen crying at Will's funeral. She is very sweet and innocent.
Greg McCorkle (12)	Goes to Hawkins Middle School. Is popular and likes to joke around.
Tommy H. (17)	Tommy goes to Hawkins High school. He is very shallow and likes to tease his friends. He is dating Carol.
Phil Callahan (31)	Works in the Hawkins Police Department as an officer. He is one of the officers who looked for Will. He is very gullible and often steps over others personal boundaries.
Carol (17)	Carol goes to Hawkins High School and is popular, a little mean-spirited, and a bit shallow. She is dating Tommy.
Florence (73)	Florence is the secretary of the Hawkins Police Station. She is caring as she is seen worrying about Jim Hopper's health and telling him to stop smoking.
Donald Melvald (64)	Donald is the shopkeeper and owner of Melvald General Store, and is the employer Joyce

Helpful Links

- [Plot Summary Based On Character Groupings](#)
- [Everything Stranger Things](#)
- [General Information](#)
- [Specifics on Characters \(i.e. descriptions, personality traits, etc.\)](#)