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BACKGROUND PAPER

Topic: “The Hogwarts Divide: Authority, Autonomy, and the Rise of Dolores Umbridge”

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Fantasy

Chair and Moderator:

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Committee Background

Starting as an experimental format at Harvard Model UN in 2003, the Fantasy Committee is a specialized body within the Model United Nations (MUN) framework that has gained prominence since its inception in the early 2000s. Since then, the Fantasy Committee has been featured at numerous MUN conferences around the world, offering delegates a unique opportunity to participate in creative and diplomatic exercises.

The committee's goal is to help participants develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and negotiating abilities while promoting imagination and creativity in a fantastical environment. The Fantasy Committee provides a novel alternative to conventional MUN committees by emulating actual diplomatic situations in a fictional setting, enabling delegates to think creatively and come up with original answers to difficult problems.

Introduction of the Topic



Following the dismissal of beloved Headmaster Albus Dumbledore by the Ministry of Magic and the appointment of Dolores Umbridge as his successor, Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry is rocked by chaos that divides the wizarding community, faculty, and students.

Students like Harry Potter, Ron Weasley, and Hermione Granger rebel against Umbridge's rigid, Ministry-aligned rules by joining Dumbledore's Armed Forces to covertly study defensive magic.

As the Ministry's meddling in Hogwarts' matters exacerbates the situation, the appointment increases tension among faculty and student unrest and raises concerns about the autonomy of the school and the Headmaster's role.



Evolution of the Topic

Despite the evidence, the Ministry of Magic, led by Cornelius Fudge, denied Voldemort's return and instead launched a smear campaign against Harry Potter and Albus Dumbledore. By using Educational Decrees to meddle at Hogwarts, they appointed Dolores Umbridge as a teacher who prioritized theory over practical knowledge. The Ministry ultimately put its own interests ahead of the welfare of the wizarding community by imposing authoritarian rule at Hogwarts, discrediting Dumbledore and Harry through the Daily Prophet, and failing to prepare for the conflict.

There are serious repercussions when the Ministry gets involved in Hogwarts issues. Umbridge's appointment as High Inquisitor gives her the authority to interfere with the operation of the school, causing friction and discontent among students as well as teachers. This interference ultimately leads to the formation of Dumbledore's Armed Forces and the students' rebellion against Umbridge's regime.

At Hogwarts, Harry Potter and his friends established Dumbledore's Armed Forces as a covert organization to teach students defensive magic against the Dark Arts because Dolores Umbridge would not give them practical training. The DA was led by Harry and comprised Ginny Weasley, Luna Lovegood, and Neville Longbottom, with Ron and Hermione playing important roles. As they got ready for Lord Voldemort's return, the group aimed to strengthen students' defensive abilities and counter Ministry influence while encouraging solidarity and friendship among its members.



External Actions

1. Academic Censorship and Ideological Control

In Defense Against the Dark Arts, in particular, all practical instruction was outlawed as part of repressive educational reforms. Access to the library was restricted, books were censored, and "subversive" subjects like Voldemort's return were outright prohibited. Teachers who voiced opinions that went against the Ministry's official position faced threats or dismissal.

2. Hogwarts Repression and Surveillance

A continuous monitoring system was put in place, which included random inspections, hall patrols, and physical punishment. Pupils were urged to report on instructors and fellow students who expressed disapproval of the Ministry. Members of the "Inquisitorial Squad," many of whom came from houses loyal to the Ministry, such as Slytherin, were given command over staff and even students.

3. Campaigns of Disinformation

The Ministry began a massive campaign to discredit Harry Potter and Dumbledore by calling them agitators and liars through the Daily Prophet.

4. Pressure on Dumbledore's Allies, Officials, and Families

Known members of the Order of the Phoenix have been the target of institutional harassment, which has included threats, interrogations, and surveillance. Prominent families face pressure to back the Ministry or face audits, investigations, or losing their official positions. Widespread paranoia has resulted from the use of Veritaserum, magical monitoring, and a fear of being linked to "rebels."





Committee Focus

This committee needs to function as a political and strategic entity that can examine the moral, legal, and social ramifications of the Hogwarts crisis. A deeper crisis in governance, a degradation of fundamental rights, and an impending security threat to the wizarding world are all reflected in this dispute, which goes beyond simple education.

KEY FOCUS STATEMENTS TO DISCUSS:

- Legitimacy of the Ministry and its actions
- Defense of Magical and Educational rights
- Assessment of Dolores Umbridge's role
- Preventing Magical Civil Conflict
- Addressing the Denied Threat: Voldemort's Return
- Reforming the Governance of the Magical World



Conclusion

The stability of the nation's most significant magical institution is in danger due to the conflict and mistrust created by the dismissal of Professor Albus Dumbledore and the appointment of Dolores Umbridge as the new Headmistress of Hogwarts. The educational community is divided as a result of this abrupt change in leadership, which has an impact on the learning environment and the relationship between the school and the Ministry of Magic.

To protect students' safety and well-being, it is thought to be crucial to encourage communication and collaboration between the two sides. Education, intellectual freedom, and tolerance for diversity must all be promoted at Hogwarts. Since young wizards and witches are the future of the wizarding world, their interests must come first in any political decision.

As a result, everyone concerned is expected to behave responsibly, openly, and sympathetically in order to find amicable solutions that uphold the harmony and principles that have always characterized Hogwarts. Trust can only be rebuilt in this way, and the school will remain a symbol of knowledge, inclusivity, and hope for the whole magical community.



Characters Position

Harry Potter : Harry Potter: Harry Potter is completely against the Ministry's choice to remove Albus Dumbledore and establish Dolores Umbridge in his place. He understands that Umbridge is a symbol of denial, fear, and unquestioning submission to authority, whereas Dumbledore is a symbol of honesty, moral strength, and wisdom. Under Umbridge's direction, Hogwarts loses its sense of cohesion and trust and turns into a place where restrictions and intimidation are the norm. Because of his devotion to Dumbledore and his conviction that the truth should not be suppressed, Harry publicly questions Umbridge's regulations.

Hermione Granger: Hermione Granger opposes the Ministry's meddling in Hogwarts and firmly supports Dumbledore. As a student who places a high importance on justice and education, she believes that Umbridge's method of instruction is harmful, constrictive, and limited.

In the opinion of Hermione, genuine education should promote critical thinking rather than mindless compliance. She intervenes when she sees the repression of free expression and the growth of fear by assisting in the establishment of Dumbledore's Armed Forces, a group that enables students to continue practicing actual defensive techniques.

Draco Malfoy: Draco Malfoy supports Dolores Umbridge's appointment as Headmistress and fully supports the Ministry's decision. He sees her leadership as a chance to bring back what he considers to be appropriate authority and order at Hogwarts.

Draco joins the Inquisitorial Squad, an organization Umbridge established to uphold her regulations and discipline students who defy her, as a devoted adherent of pure-blood ideals and a supporter of the Ministry's authority. He has more influence over his peers because of this role, which he uses to win their favor and raise his own status.

Ron Weasley: Ron Weasley steadfastly supports Harry and Dumbledore and vehemently opposes the Ministry's intervention. He feels that Umbridge's rule undermines the principles that make Hogwarts a secure and friendly place by substituting fear for justice. Despite his occasional impatience, Ron's moral clarity and loyalty drive him to stand up to injustice and protect his friends. He sees Umbridge as an illustration of the misuse of power and Dumbledore as a representation of wisdom.



Characters Position

Dolores Umbridge: Umbridge, who feels that Hogwarts requires more control and discipline, wholeheartedly agrees with the Ministry's decision. She wants to establish strict authority and values order over freedom because she believes Dumbledore's leadership is too independent. Her position silences any opposition, further dividing the school.

Severus Snape: Severus Snape takes a vague and strategic approach. He appears to work with Umbridge and the Ministry in order to maintain his standing and allay suspicions. His genuine allegiance, though, is still to Dumbledore. Snape avoids direct conflict even though he disapproves of Umbridge's invasive tactics and her upsetting of Hogwarts' natural equilibrium. His primary goal is to safeguard the students and the school's reputation from within by employing tact and subtly influencing others instead of openly defying them.

Fred Weasley: Fred Weasley thinks Umbridge's presence is detrimental to the genuine spirit of Hogwarts and vehemently disagrees with her leadership. He thinks that learning requires freedom, creativity, and laughter. He responds with outspoken defiance, protests, and practical jokes.

George Weasley: Although he frequently adopts a slightly more measured approach, George Weasley shares his brother's opinions. He feels that rather than being a place of punishment and terror, Hogwarts should be a place of happiness and tolerant education. George challenges Umbridge's authority with wit and comedy, demonstrating that student unity and inventiveness can defeat unfair leadership.

Alastor Moody: Alastor Moody is a staunch supporter of Dumbledore and believes that the Ministry's actions are politically motivated and misguided. He feels Umbridge's appointment undermines the moral and academic foundation of Hogwarts and makes her unfit to lead or guard the students. Moody's position is one of cautious opposition and defense, prioritizing safety and the truth over politics. He continues to uphold the fundamental values of the school and is devoted to Dumbledore's leadership.



Characters Position

Albus Dumbledore: Despite being dismissed, Albus Dumbledore maintains his composure. He is aware that fear and misinterpretation, not logic, led to the Ministry's decision. According to Dumbledore, education ought to be directed by compassion, truth, and tolerance rather than by oppression or control. He continues to defend the students from a distance even after being relieved of his duties because he believes they are capable of determining right from wrong. His position stands as a moral counterpoint to Umbridge's authoritarian rule because it reflects wisdom, endurance, and faith in the power of truth. Dumbledore thinks that in the end, Hogwarts will be united again by the virtues of bravery, compassion, and understanding.

Participation List



Harry Potter



Ron Weasley



Hermione Granger



Ginny Weasley



Neville Longbottom



Draco Malfoy



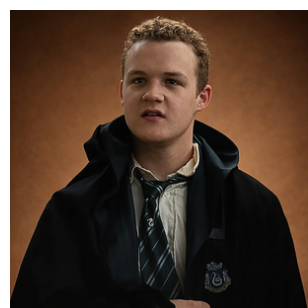
Pansy Parkinson



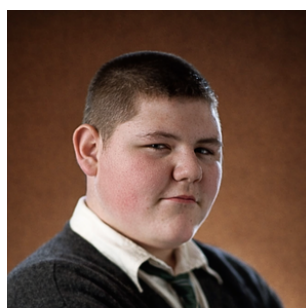
Fred Weasley



George Weasley



Gregory Goyle

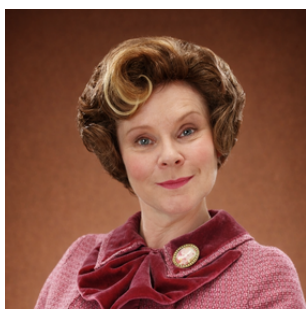


Vincent Crabbe



Dean Thomas

Participation List



Dolores Umbridge



Albus
Dumbledore



Severus
Snape



Minerva
McGonagall



Alastor
Moody



Remus
Lupin



Sirius Black

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