<u>How to write a JCR motion</u>

Writing a motion is your way of getting the JCR to do what you want! They come up in a certain section of JCR meetings and are the method through which everyone decides whether or not to take a certain action.

This is a brief overview of how to write a motion, and you can always contact the JCR Secretary for help if you decide to write one.

All motions follow a few set rules:

1.   A motion needs to be proposed (by you) and seconded (by any other member of the JCR).

2.   Motions need to be submitted to the JCR Secretary by the Friday before the JCR meeting.

3.   Motions should contain three clauses, presented as follows:

THE JCR NOTES:

This section contains factual reasons for bringing the motion forward.

 THE JCR BELIEVES:

This section contains the thoughts of the JCR (i.e. you) on the notes section, and if the motion passes, is what the JCR thinks is true.

THE JCR RESOLVES:

This section contains the proposed actions of the JCR. What you put here depends on what you want your motion to achieve, i.e. you can mandate a JCR officer to do something, release money for spending, or create/change part of the constitution, etc. Resolving something means it happens once.

(AND/OR) THE JCR RESOLVES AS A MATTER OF POLICY:

If the JCR passes a motion of policy it becomes the ongoing stance of the JCR, until it is changed or removed. All policies are presented in the first JCR meeting of Hilary Term every year, where they can be renewed. If there is no renewal the policies will expire after 2 years.

Tips:

It's worth organising your ideas to show how they all link together.

Try to make the wording as uncontroversial as possible – that gets the maximum support for the motion and avoids long and sometimes pointless debates about the precise meaning of the wording used.

Very generally speaking, the more things you try to get done in a single motion, the more likely that someone will have an objection to it, and the less likely it will get though. If you think one motion's trying to get a lot done, consider splitting it up into two motions.