

Breaking Bad: The Fall of an Empire



Committee: Breaking Bad: The Fall of an Empire

Topic(s): The Heisenberg Crisis

Committee Type:
Crisis

December 7, 2026



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Conference Schedule:

<i>Opening Ceremonies</i>	<i>8:00 am - 9:00 am</i>
<i>Committee Session I</i>	<i>9:00 am - 1:00 pm</i>
<i>Lunch Break</i>	<i>1:00 pm - 2:00 pm</i>
<i>Committee Session II</i>	<i>2:00 pm - 5:30 pm</i>
<i>Closing Ceremonies</i>	<i>5:30 pm - 6:15 pm</i>

Conference Policies:

UNISMUNC X aims to foster debate, bringing students the opportunity to explore a range of topics and encourage collaboration and teamwork between delegates. Be that as it may, UNIS stresses the importance of respectful language as UNISMUNC X will see delegates debating topics that, at times, may be heated or passionate. MUNEX encourages you to remember to stay respectful and mindful of the other students around you. We are so excited about this conference and trust that no issues will arise. The following expectations and policies are designed so that every delegate gets the most out of UNISMUNC.

Attire:

The Dress Code for UNISMUNC is formal Western business attire, and all delegates are expected to comply with this. Exceptions can be made for character purposes in crisis committees at the discretion of the chair. If you have an idea for an outfit for a crisis committee that does not fall into the parameters of traditional Western business attire, please ask your chair for permission before wearing the outfit.

Committee Assignments:

Committee assignments will be made on a first-come, first-served basis based on preference as communicated by the delegation's advisors (or individual delegates in the case of independent delegates), in order of receipt of preference. Before being assigned to a committee, payment must be received. If payment is not submitted in a timely manner, delegations face the risk of not receiving committee assignments of their choice.

Expectations in Committee:

As you engage in debates, we ask that delegates maintain politeness and respect at all times. While we recognize that you are representing your country's views, it is essential to express these perspectives without crossing the line into disrespectful or confrontational behavior.

Please respect one another when delegates are giving speeches. Only one delegate may speak at a time during moderated caucuses. To speak during a moderated caucus, you must raise your placard and wait to be recognized by the chair. During speeches, no ad hominem attacks will be allowed; should they occur, the subject will have the right to reply. Remember to be cognizant of your words and actions, and to listen to everyone's views and positions.

The Committee Chairs and Secretariat members are responsible for determining disruptive behavior.

Examples of disrespectful behavior may include, but are not limited to:

- Speaking without being recognized,
- Use of cell phones,
- Note-passing unrelated to the committee,
- Use of technology when not allowed,
- Verbal, physical, or sexual harassment of other delegates.

The pre-writing of any resolution/directive clauses, crisis notes, or speeches is strictly forbidden and will be penalized. This does not include opening remarks. This does not include any writing during the lunch break, as UNISMUNC committees standardly operate with 'working lunches'.

UNISMUNC has a zero-tolerance policy for any plagiarism. This includes position papers, speeches, and resolutions. Improper citation of quotes and references may result in disqualification from awards or further disciplinary action at the discretion of the chairs.

Pricing:

Please see the registration section for more information. Details on committee assignments are below.

Spectators:

Please be aware that UNISMUNC X does not allow unregistered spectators. Student spectators are strictly prohibited. All advisors and delegates must be registered and pay the required fee(s). Non-compliance with this policy will result in exclusion from future invitations. We expect all

participating delegations to respect this policy. The Secretariat reserves the right to have any unregistered spectators removed from committee chambers and escorted off of the premises if necessary, as they see fit.

Technology:

All crisis committees are strictly no-tech. Neither laptops nor cell phones will be permitted during committee sessions in crisis committees.

General Assembly (GA) committees allow technology exclusively for the purpose of resolution writing. Delegates will be permitted to use their laptops to work on resolutions during unmoderated caucuses and outside of the committee chamber when allowed by the chair. It is, however, not permitted to use technology when a fellow delegate is speaking or in the committee chambers during moderated caucuses. This includes your own speeches, so please write any notes by hand or have your opening remarks printed before the conference.

Awards Criteria:

UNISMUNC Chairs, Dises, and, in the case of crisis committees, Crisis Directors will work together to holistically evaluate delegates based on their performance throughout the entire day of debate. This includes:

- speeches given during moderated caucuses,
- performance during unmoderated caucuses (not only making one's voice heard but also including everyone in the discussion),
- writing/presenting resolutions/directions, especially those that pass,
- in crisis committees, as well as the detail and sophistication of crisis arcs.

Letter From Chair/Director:

Greetings delegates,

We feel a deep sense of pride and privilege in welcoming you to UNISMUNC XII, and more specifically, the *Heisenberg Crisis* committee. Our names are Audrey Schottland and Lucie Galand, and we are overjoyed to serve as your chairs in the coming conference. We eagerly anticipate the dynamic, engaging, and imaginative debate that will unfold as delegates work to navigate a criminal underworld's dangerous struggle for power while preventing their own destruction. As you prepare for the committee, we urge you to understand that this committee will be what you make it, and it is an opportunity for you to hilariously express yourself and act as your favorite characters from an amazing TV show, and fully embrace your characters' personalities and dynamics. Nevertheless, all must adhere to the Western business attire dress code. However, to enhance your experience, we highly encourage delegates to bring props or accessories associated with your assigned Breaking Bad committee. We await meeting each of you and witnessing a memorable day of critical thinking, alliance, betrayal, and maybe even a show of ruthless business

My name is Audrey Schottland, and I will be one of your co-chairs of this committee. I am in 11th grade and was born in New York City in 2009, and lived here for four years until my family moved to Malaga, Spain, for 3 years. Recently, in the past few years, I started watching Breaking Bad, and it easily became my favorite show. The dynamics between characters, show of metaphors and foreshadowing, and the thrilling plot easily explained why Breaking Bad is such a highly rated show. When I was given the opportunity to create a committee for our conference, I was ecstatic to manifest Breaking Bad into a committee. I hope we all have an amazing time together!

My name is Lucie Galand, and I will be one of your co-chairs of this committee. I am in 11th grade and...

A Brief Overview of the Committee:

A lone black SUV slowly pulls into an abandoned industrial laundry facility on the outskirts of Albuquerque.

The engine dies.

The silence is unsettling.

Inside the building, fluorescent lights flicker above rows of stainless-steel equipment. Workers move without speaking, carefully avoiding eye contact with the men carrying assault rifles through the warehouse. Beneath the factory lies something far more valuable than laundry.

A laboratory.

State-of-the-art.

Hidden from the world.

For years, this operation has produced the purest methamphetamine the American Southwest has ever seen. Ninety-nine point one percent pure. Its blue crystals have become legendary throughout New Mexico and beyond.

Yet perfection has created attention.

The DEA is closer than ever to uncovering the operation.

The Juárez Cartel has begun demanding a larger share of profits.

Independent dealers have started disappearing.

Millions of dollars have vanished from hidden accounts.

Rumors spread across Albuquerque that someone inside the organization has become an informant.

No one knows who to trust.

Every individual entering this committee possesses secrets.

Some seek wealth.

Others seek revenge.

Some want justice.

Others simply wish to survive.

The choices you make throughout debate will determine not only who controls Albuquerque's criminal underworld, but whether the city itself descends into complete chaos.

This committee began in **late 2008**, shortly after Walter White and Jesse Pinkman began producing methamphetamine for Gustavo Fring's organization. The business is expanding faster than ever before, but beneath the surface, tensions threaten to tear apart every alliance.

Nothing is certain.

No character is safe.

History has not yet been written.

DISCLAIMER!!!

While this committee is inspired by the show, Breaking Bad, the events that will unfold during the debate will not follow the events of the show. Also, spoilers if you haven't watched it (you should have though)

Committee Procedure:

Moderated Caucuses are structured discussions where delegates sign themselves up to give short, regulated speeches. The speaking time and topic of discussion are set when the motion is proposed, and delegates take turns to speak.

Unmoderated Caucuses are divided between a regular unmoderated caucus and a gentleman's unmoderated caucus where everybody remains seated. A regular unmod entails a period free of structured, regulated debate, where delegates can mill about the committee and work with their blocs.

Some actions that are carried over from the usual committee procedure:

- Point of Order
- Point of Information
- Appeal to the Chair
- Suspension of Debate
- Adjournment of Debate
- Closure of Debate
- Roll Call Vote
- Set the Speaker's Time
- Call a guest speaker

Instead of resolutions, the crisis will debate and pass **directives**. Directives are actions or communications undertaken by the entire committee as a group and are passed by a simple majority. Unlike resolutions, which may only be entertained at the end of a session, directives should be created and debated on as much as possible. The different types of papers used in crisis committees are explained in detail in the next section.

The Committee may call for external speakers to address the body. To do so, a committee member must move to invite the guest; that motion requires a majority vote to pass.

The goal of the crisis committee has two aspects-- firstly to work as a group to solve or influence the crisis in the interest of the group, and secondly to act in your character's best interests. In this committee, many of the characters are charged by different motives and have their individual goals; for instance, Darth Maul will have vastly different goals from Lott Dod.

Written Papers:

Crisis Notes: Crisis notes are notes used in order to take personal action from a delegate, without the need for committee approval. Crisis notes are therefore bound by a character's individual portfolio power. There are a myriad of ways to write Crisis notes, but be sure to sign your character's name at the end and address it to CRISIS on the front of your folded note.

Directives: A directive is a formal written instruction or order given by a delegate or a group of delegates to the chair or to other delegates. Directives are used to propose specific actions or solutions to address the crisis at hand. They can range from proposing specific policies or strategies to calling for specific actions by other delegates or bodies within the simulation. Directives are passed frequently throughout debate, and are a lot shorter than most resolutions. They are not restrained by a specific format, and while they do need signatories and sponsors, they do not require a distinction between preambulatory and operative clauses.

Communiqués: Communiqués are committee documents used to communicate with people outside of the committee. For example, Communiqués could be used when surrender terms or ultimatums are sent to the opponent or when the committee requests aid, advice or arms from their allies. Similar to Directives, they will require a minimum of four people on the document, with two sponsors and two signatories.

Press Releases: As the name says, press releases are committee documents addressed to the public. They can be used to inform or even misinform the public according to the desires of the committee. Similar to Directives and Communiqués, Press Releases will require a minimum of three people on the document, with one sponsor and two signatories.

Topic Background:

The American Southwest has always been a place of reinvention. Stretching across deserts, mountains, and isolated highways, New Mexico occupies a unique position in the United States. It is geographically vast, culturally diverse, and historically shaped by migration, trade, and conflict. For generations, the region has existed at the crossroads of legal and illegal commerce. Goods, money, and people move through its highways with remarkable ease. What appears empty from a distance is, in reality, connected by a dense network of transportation routes, border crossings, warehouses, trucking companies, and cash businesses.

By the early twenty-first century, Albuquerque had become a city of contradictions. New technology firms stood beside struggling neighborhoods. Expanding suburbs bordered abandoned industrial districts. Beneath the bright desert sky, economic opportunity coexisted with unemployment, addiction, and organized crime. The city was not ruled by a single cartel; rather, it was a patchwork of competing interests: street dealers, local gangs, corrupt businessmen, international traffickers, and law enforcement agencies all attempting to impose order according to their own definition of the word.

Walter White Before Heisenberg

Before he was feared, Walter White was invisible.

Born in New Mexico and educated as a gifted chemist, Walter displayed exceptional academic talent from a young age. He co-founded a promising research company, Gray Matter Technologies, alongside fellow scientists Elliott Schwartz and Gretchen Schwartz. The company

possessed enormous potential, and many believed Walter was destined for a distinguished scientific career.

Yet somewhere along the way, that future disappeared.

Walter left Gray Matter under circumstances he rarely discussed. As the company grew into a multibillion-dollar enterprise, he became a high school chemistry teacher earning a modest salary. He lived in a small suburban home with his wife, Skyler, his teenage son, Walter Jr., and later their infant daughter Holly. To neighbors, he seemed unremarkable: polite, overqualified, and quietly disappointed.

Everything changed when he was diagnosed with terminal lung cancer.

Faced with mounting medical bills and the prospect of leaving his family with little financial security, Walter began searching for a way to earn money quickly. During a ride-along with his brother-in-law, DEA agent Hank Schrader, Walter witnessed a methamphetamine raid and recognized an opportunity. Chemistry, the discipline in which he had once excelled, could become the foundation of a criminal enterprise.

He approached former student Jesse Pinkman.

Together they produced methamphetamine of unprecedented purity.

At first, Walter justified his actions as temporary. He claimed he was acting for his family. But with every successful batch, every sale, and every danger survived, another motive emerged: pride. The respect he had never received as a teacher, scientist, or provider began to appear in the criminal world. Walter White slowly gave way to Heisenberg, a name that would soon inspire fear across the Southwest.

Jesse Pinkman: The Reluctant Criminal

Jesse Pinkman grew up in Albuquerque but never met the expectations of his family. Intelligent yet undisciplined, he drifted through school, experimented with drugs, and eventually entered the local meth trade. He possessed street knowledge, connections, and survival instincts that Walter lacked.

Their partnership was improbable.

Walter brought scientific brilliance; Jesse brought practical criminal experience. Together they created a product that rapidly disrupted the existing drug market. Yet Jesse remained emotionally conflicted throughout the operation. He sought approval, friendship, and belonging, often finding himself manipulated by stronger personalities. His loyalty to Walter would become one of the most important—and most tragic—relationships in the committee.

Jesse understands the streets better than nearly anyone in Albuquerque. He knows dealers, addicts, distributors, and the unwritten rules of survival. What he lacks in discipline, he often compensates for with intuition.

The Albuquerque Drug Trade

Methamphetamine was already deeply embedded in New Mexico before Walter entered the business. Local producers operated small laboratories in houses, garages, trailers, and rural properties. Street gangs distributed product through neighborhood networks, while larger organizations controlled transportation and wholesale supply.

Most methamphetamine available in Albuquerque was impure.

Walter's blue meth changed the economics of the market almost overnight. Higher purity created stronger demand, higher prices, and greater profits. Dealers began competing for access to the

product. Existing producers lost customers. Violence increased as territories became more valuable.

In criminal markets, superior quality is not merely a business advantage—it is a threat to every competitor.

Gustavo Fring and the Hidden Empire

No figure in Albuquerque appears more respectable than Gustavo Fring.

Owner of the successful fast-food chain, Los Pollos Hermanos, Fring presents himself as a generous businessman who supports local charities, law enforcement initiatives, and community programs. He is calm, courteous, and meticulously professional. To the public, he embodies the American success story.

The public sees only half the truth.

Behind the restaurants lies a sophisticated international drug distribution network connected to the Juárez Cartel. Fring's organization uses legitimate businesses to transport narcotics, launder money, and conceal operations. Trucks carrying restaurant supplies can move contraband across state lines with minimal suspicion. Warehouses, industrial facilities, and shell companies create layers of protection between criminal activity and public visibility.

Fring differs from traditional cartel leaders in one crucial respect: he values order above all else.

He avoids unnecessary violence, insists on professionalism, and treats the drug trade as a corporate enterprise rather than a street business. Employees who follow instructions are rewarded generously. Employees who become liabilities disappear.

Recognizing the extraordinary quality of Walter's methamphetamine, Fring recruited Walter and Jesse into his organization. He financed the construction of a hidden underground laboratory beneath an industrial laundry facility, giving Walter resources no local producer had ever possessed.

Yet Fring never fully trusted Walter.

The Salamanca Family

If Fring represents discipline, the Salamanca family represents fear.

The Salamancas are a powerful criminal clan tied directly to the Juárez Cartel. Their influence stretches across Mexico and the American Southwest through violence, intimidation, and family loyalty. Unlike Fring's polished operation, the Salamancas rely on reputation and terror.

Hector Salamanca, once a formidable cartel commander, now communicates through a wheelchair bell after suffering a debilitating stroke. Though physically weakened, he remains dangerous, vindictive, and fiercely loyal to his family.

His relatives, including Tuco, the Cousins, and other Salamanca operatives, view Walter White as both a useful asset and a potential enemy. They resent Fring's growing power and suspect he is building an independent empire. The rivalry between Fring and the Salamancas is not merely a business dispute; it is a struggle for dominance within the cartel itself.

Any conflict involving the Salamancas risks attracting armed cartel intervention.

The Juárez Cartel

Beyond Albuquerque stands the larger force that shapes nearly every criminal transaction: the Juárez Cartel.

Operating from northern Mexico, the cartel controls smuggling routes, production territories, enforcement networks, and financial operations worth millions of dollars. Local dealers may believe they are independent, but many ultimately depend on cartel-controlled supply chains. The cartel initially tolerated Fring because he generated enormous profits. However, Fring's increasing independence has alarmed cartel leadership. Rumors suggest he is secretly expanding his own network, cultivating loyal personnel, and reducing reliance on cartel suppliers. Cartel leaders now face a difficult question: should they continue profiting from Fring's operation, or eliminate him before he becomes too powerful to control? Their answer may determine the future of the Southwest drug trade.

The DEA: The Hunters

Not everyone in Albuquerque is motivated by profit.

The Drug Enforcement Administration (DEA) has spent years investigating methamphetamine trafficking throughout New Mexico. Among its agents, none is more persistent than Hank Schrader.

Hank is experienced, confident, and highly regarded within the DEA. He has dismantled numerous drug operations and believes he understands the criminal landscape of Albuquerque. Ironically, he remains unaware that the elusive manufacturer known as Heisenberg is his own brother-in-law.

Recent investigations have produced alarming evidence:

- Unusually pure blue methamphetamine has appeared across multiple jurisdictions.
- Several distributors connected to the product have died under suspicious circumstances.
- Financial irregularities have emerged around businesses linked to Los Pollos Hermanos.

- Informants report the existence of a highly organized production network.

The DEA is closer to the truth than any criminal organization realizes.

Money Laundering and Legitimate Business

Drug empires cannot survive on cash hidden in barrels forever.

As profits increase, criminal organizations require methods to disguise illegal income as legitimate revenue. Car washes, restaurants, vending companies, real estate ventures, warehouses, and import-export firms become essential financial infrastructure.

Skyler White, initially horrified by Walter's criminal activities, gradually becomes involved in laundering money through the family's car wash business. Her accounting skills make her one of the few people capable of understanding the true scale of Walter's finances.

Control of financial records can be as powerful as control of armed men.

A single ledger, tax document, or bank transfer may expose an empire—or provide leverage over it.

Corruption and Silence

Large criminal organizations rarely survive without assistance from the legitimate world.

Lawyers, accountants, business executives, police officers, and government officials may accept bribes, provide information, or deliberately ignore suspicious activity.

In Albuquerque, rumors of corruption circulate constantly. Some officials are merely negligent; others are actively compromised. No delegate can safely assume that institutions are functioning honestly.

The most dangerous weapon in this committee may not be a gun. It may be information.

Family, Loyalty, and Weakness

One of Walter White's greatest vulnerabilities is also his greatest obsession: family.

Skyler fears for her children's safety. Walter Jr. idolizes his father. Hank loves his family even as he hunts the criminals threatening Albuquerque. Marie Schrader senses that secrets are consuming those around her. Jesse yearns for a surrogate family and repeatedly finds himself drawn back to Walter despite mounting evidence that the relationship is destructive.

Criminal enterprises often collapse not because enemies attack them, but because personal relationships fracture under pressure.

A City on the Edge

By late 2008, Albuquerque stands at a crossroads.

Walter White's methamphetamine has transformed the regional drug market.

Gustavo Fring is expanding rapidly but facing growing scrutiny.

The Salamanca family seeks revenge and influence.

The Juárez Cartel questions Fring's loyalty.

The DEA is closing in on a major breakthrough.

Millions of dollars are moving through hidden accounts.

Informants whisper in dark parking lots.

Armed men wait for orders.

No one knows who will strike first.

The desert is quiet, but the quiet feels temporary.

The empire is cracking.

Current Situation:

It is 2:13 AM.

A violent explosion has just rocked an industrial laundry facility in Albuquerque.

Emergency services have not yet arrived. Thick smoke rises into the desert night, and power flickers across several nearby blocks. Initial reports suggest the blast originated deep within the building, far below ground level.

Within minutes, rumors spread through criminal and law enforcement circles alike:

- The underground laboratory may have been destroyed.
- Several employees are missing.
- A shipment worth millions of dollars has disappeared.
- DEA informants claim the explosion was not an accident.
- Cartel scouts have been seen near the facility.
- Financial accounts connected to the operation are suddenly inaccessible.

Most alarming of all, **Walter White cannot be located.**

Some believe he is dead.

Others believe he orchestrated the explosion himself.

Still others suspect Gustavo Fring has finally moved against him.

As dawn approaches, every major player in Albuquerque begins scrambling to secure allies, protect secrets, seize resources, and survive the coming storm.

This committee begins in the immediate aftermath of the explosion.

The empire is cracking.

No one knows who will emerge from the ruins.

Characters:

Character names + descriptions (context + portfolio powers)

- Walter White
- Jesse Pinkman
- Gustavo Fring
- Mike Ehrmantraut
- Skyler White
- Hank Schrader
- Saul Goodman
- Hector Salamanca
- The Cousins
- Tuco Salamanca
- Lydia Rodarte-Quayle
- Gale Boetticher
- Marie Schrader
- Walter Jr.
- Steven Gomez
- Madrigal executives
- Cartel representatives
- Local distributors
- Investigative journalists
- Corrupt officials

Questions to Consider:

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-
-
- ect...

References:

(MLA format! We recommend you use Google citations or NoodleTools...)