

Position Paper Guide

What is a position paper?

A position paper is a short document which outlines the position of the country you are representing on the topic. It will help you organize your research and condense it into a single document. Please do remember that in a Model United Nation Conference, you have to assume the position of the country you are given to represent. Therefore, all that you write and speak through the conference must reflect on the official stance of the country and NOT your personal opinion.

A position paper has to be written by yourself and we highly recommend against directly copying from internet websites like Wikipedia. We do understand that some of you may be first timers and assure you that the chairpersons will be available for your help should you have problems in writing the position paper.

What does a position paper include?

A position paper should start with recognizing the problem. You should include the past efforts taken by your country in this regard. You should include all the international agreements your country has signed in the past or is planning to initiate in the future. A position paper should also state what you are looking for in the resolution and aspects of the topic which are critical to your country.

To structure your paper, divide it in three parts. The first part outlines your countries position to the topic including key terms, causes and the general understanding of the issue from your countries perspective. The second part should consist of your countries relation to the topic, its policies and previous actions taken by the international community. In the third part you propose possible solutions and ways how your country aims to address those issues.

How long should a position paper be?

It is always preferred that the position paper not be more than one page in length. This will make the job easier for everyone. Your co-delegates will be able to read through all the other position papers quickly and prepare faster. Nevertheless, it is essential that all the important aspects are stated explicitly in the position paper, especially when your country occupies a controversial position in the debate.