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POSITION PAPER GUIDE

What is a position paper and why is it important?

A position paper is a short essay (usually a single page) that demonstrates your understanding of a topic, explains your delegation's role within that topic, and outlines your proposed solutions to the issue at hand. The position paper is important because it is the first impression to the Chair and other delegates in the committee. It is convenient that you had done a research and devised creative solutions that others can analyze and support. These are also important because good position papers can often be the tipping factor when it comes to close awards decisions.

Before you start writing your position paper

Prior to writing your position paper, you need to do your research. This entails not only reading the background guide, but also going beyond that document and looking at other sources (UN records, reports from governments and NGOs, speeches by world leaders, etc.). It isn't possible to write a good position paper without having a thorough understanding of the topic at hand, your delegation's position and past actions on the topic, and the positions of other delegations in the committee.

• Past Actions:

Outlines your country's policies and past actions (agreements or treaties they have been a part of, national legislation, etc.) and how successful they were.

Provide examples and facts from research to support your discussion where possible.

• Proposed Solutions:

Explains the solutions you will propose to the committee (the most important part of your paper – be sure to make this paragraph the focus).

Should be creative and SMART (Specitic, Measurable, Actionable, Realistic, Timely).

Structuring your paper

Position papers have five parts. Although the formula may vary slightly from one conference to another, this is the general format and order for MUNAA's specific guidelines:

• Header:

It includes your committee, topic, country and flag, school and name, in this order.

• Topic Overview:

Provides an overview of the topic from your country's perspective.

Based on research beyond the background guide.

Should be a very brief paragraph.



• Works Cited and Citations:

The style (APA or MLA, footnotes or in-text citations) must be used by the delegates in order to give credit to the original authors.

Things to Avoid:

- Diverging from your country's official policies
- Using personal pronouns (write in third person POV instead)
- Plagiarism of any kind
- Using lots of quotes or long quotes
- Not following the guidelines set by the conference.



