

# POSITION PAPERS

## Outline & Guidelines



## PAPER OUTLINE

Name, Position  
School  
Committee  
Committee Topic

*Introduction Paragraph*

*Past Action*

*Current Situation*

*Solutions Paragraph*

Citations on Another Page



# PAPER GUIDELINES

## WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

A position paper is a research paper that gives insight to each delegate's position's point of view on the topic(s) presented in a committee. The paper outlines the causes and effects of the topic and its influence on the country's economy, government, and people. It defines the country's stance on the topic as well as provides solutions to mitigate or eradicate the issues at hand. Position papers should be well-written and well-researched as they are required at conferences and are often an important resource for debate during committee sessions.

## FORMATTING

- 1-page limit per topic
- Header including name, school, committee, and topic
- Citations in any format (not-part of the 1-page limit)
- Times New Roman, 12-pt, 1-inch margins, single-spaced

## CONTENT

We suggest writing position papers in a 4-paragraph format, as outlined below:

1. Introduction paragraph providing very brief background on the topic
  - a. Brief history and background of the situation
  - b. Emphasizes WHY the issue requires urgent UN action
2. Past Action
  - a. Should incorporate international action by citing UN resolutions and UN resolutions the country has supported/passed
  - b. Should incorporate your country's position by citing laws and measures passed by your country in the past to address the topic
3. Current Situation
  - a. Current state of the topic as relevant to the country needs to be described
  - b. Current UN action should be described and analyzed
  - c. Current laws in place in your country should be analyzed and discussed
4. Potential Solutions
  - a. Propose 2-3 new solutions that are actionable that are either entirely new or build from past solutions
5. Citations on a separate page in any format

## STYLE

- Tone: Respectful, neutral, and formal
- All ideas should flow and read coherently
- Write in the third person
- Vary your word choice
- Keep your content concise and specific

Remember that specific examples, statistics, and references to UN resolutions all strengthen the quality of your paper! Evidence of thorough research is looked for to judge the thought and complexity of the position paper.

