

Position Paper

Many conferences require that each delegate submit a position paper – an essay detailing your country's policies on the topics being discussed in your committee. Writing a position paper will help you organize your ideas so that you can share your country's position with the rest of the committee.

A good position paper will include

- A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee
- How the issue affects your country
- Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies
- Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue
- Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue
- Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue
- Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified
- UN actions that your country supported or opposed
- What your country believes should be done to address the issue
- What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution
- How the position of other countries affect your country's position

Position Paper Tips

- **Keep it simple:** To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- **Get organized:** Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- **Read and reread:** Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organisation of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
- **Speech! Speech!** A good position paper makes a great opening speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country's policies.
- **Let the bullets fly** Try not to let your proposals become lost in a sea of information. For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.

Audience

- Who is your audience?
- What do they believe?
- Where do they stand on the issue?
- How are their interests involved?
- What evidence is likely to be effective with them?

Further information (deutsch/englisch)

<http://wiki.mun-sh.de/s/Positionspapier>

<http://www.hak-graz.at/dnn/Bildungsangebot/Begabtenfoerderung/tabid/233/Default.aspx>

<http://www.unausa.org/munpreparation>

<http://www.unausa.org/Page.aspx?pid=588>