

ICJ POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

One of the best ways to prepare for any Model United Nations Conference is through researching for and writing a position paper. Not only will it give you a structured opportunity to become more acquainted with your committee's topic, but it will also allow you to fully flesh out your ideas and positions on the issues before the conference begins. While most BMUN committees follow a standard format, the International Court of Justice (ICJ) will use a modified position paper structure to suit its specialized committee flow and topic.

Rather than including your country's position on a topic, as one would normally do in a position paper, your position paper should be divided up into three sections and be 5-10 pages, not including your bibliography:

- I. Historical Background of the Topic **(20%)**
- II. Initial Rulings **(40%)**
- III. Questions to Consider **(40%)**

***Percentages are section length suggestions. For example, for a 10 page paper the first section should be approximately 1 page.**

Please identify each section through Roman numerals (I, II, III) in your papers.

I. HISTORICAL BACKGROUND OF THE TOPIC (20%)

Delegates should show an understanding of the events that led to the Bosnian War as well as the wartime events most pertinent to the case. Delegates should especially focus on the relationship the Serbian state had with the Republica Sprska as well as the Srebrenica Genocide, but should also be careful not to overlook other possible instances of genocide.

Here, you should give a complete but succinct account of what unfolded during the Bosnian War and what incited it, as well as a brief overview of the 2007 ICJ case and its aftermath.

II. INITIAL RULINGS (40%)

Here, delegates must outline their initial stance on how they will rule upon the question of Serbia's violation of the Genocide Convention. The ruling must be supplemented with evidence that can include legal theory, international law treaties, or case-specific statistics and documents. However, this should serve as a starting point for delegates when in they enter committee rather than their end-all be-all decision for the case--these positions can and should be developed as committee proceeds.

III. QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER (40%)

The ICJ topic synopsis outlines four questions to consider that delegates must respond to in this section. These questions are intended to inspire further research and thinking on the topic in ways that mirror how actual ICJ judges consider numerous practical and ethical dilemmas when crafting their verdicts. Your goal is to answer these questions analytically, taking into account the varying arguments on each side to help you develop the most comprehensive answers you can.

Submission Instructions

- You should have been emailed information for an account at huxley.bmun.org, specifically a username and password. If you do not have these, ask your advisor to reset your password (make sure the correct email is entered). A link labeled 'Position Paper' will appear next to where it says 'Profile'. Clicking on this will switch you to a page where you can then upload your paper for grading.
- Title your files Submission_Committee_Country

- If submitting your two position papers separately by topic, please indicate in the title as well using Topic1 or Topic 2 where appropriate
 - I.e. if you are in DISEC, and are representing Mauritania and submitting your position paper for topic 1, your file should be titled:

Submission_DISEC_Mauritania_Topic1

Position Papers are due on **February 5th** to be considered for the **Best Position Paper Award**, and **February 12th** to be considered for **any committee award**. Late submissions will not be considered, and submissions will be graded on a rolling basis. It is advised that delegates submit their position paper when they are done instead of waiting till 23:59PST the day of the deadline to get it in, to avoid technical difficulties.

Plagiarism and Citations

All position papers will be extensively cross-referenced through various sources, both online and in-print. If there is any evidence of using the work of others without citations, the delegate(s) will not be eligible for an award. Any school that has multiple cases of plagiarism may be reconsidered for a School Delegation Award. It is the responsibility of the delegate and the advisor to ensure this does not happen.

Delegates must also remember to correctly cite sources, and papers without any cited sources will not be accepted. For more information on how to use in-text MLA citations, visit [Purdue OWL](#).