



POSITION PAPER GUIDE

APRIL 12 - 14, 2019 · SHERATON WALL CENTRE HOTEL

CAHSMUN XV



INTRODUCTION

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Writing a position paper is a task that you, as a delegate, will have to complete at nearly every Model United Nations conference. The purpose of a position paper is to outline a delegation's past action and current stance on its committee's topics. At CAHSMUN, position papers are only mandatory in select committees, but are required in order to be eligible for an award. This guide is designed to help you write a strong position paper.

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

Despite its simplicity, many delegates often struggle to grasp the concept of a position paper. A position paper is nothing more than a document that outlines a country's stance on a topic. While there may be some variation in position paper policies between different MUN conferences, the papers always follow a similar format.

A well-written position paper will positively impact your experience as a delegate. The process of writing a position paper will assist you in the research of your topics. As a result, you will be able to effectively engage in debate with your peers.

THE RESEARCH

Research is easily the most important step to writing a position paper. Without research, your paper will hold nothing of value. Hence, the first step to your research procedure is to read your committee's background guide. The background guide will give you a general scope of your topic and will allow you to narrow the field of your own personal research.

With respect to writing a position paper, the "Discussion Questions" section is one of the most important sections to consider in the guide, as these questions are explicitly designed to help guide your research for the topic. Furthermore, this section gives a general idea of the direction of discussion and debate your committee is likely to take throughout its meeting sessions. These questions can be found in the final section of the topic outline in your committee's background guide.

When you have completed reading the background guide, you should begin researching your own country's stance on the given topic. In order to ensure an adequate researching process, take note of resources you use for future reference. If you ever get lost or overwhelmed during your research, you can refer back to the "Discussion Questions" section to set yourself back on track. Once you feel comfortable with your research, you can begin writing.



CONTENT EXPECTATIONS

As representatives of a country, the position paper must be written in the third person. For example: instead of writing “I believe...” you must write “the country of (country name) believes...”

Follow these six steps to effectively write a strong position paper:

1. The name of the committee, the name of your country, the name of the topic, and your own name should always be at the top of your position paper document.
2. The first paragraph should broadly introduce the topic and **state areas of concern that your country believes to be of significance.**
3. The second paragraph is where you will expand on the concerns you have stated in the first paragraph. **You will give details on the concerns and explain why your country believes that the concern is significant. This paragraph should detail your country’s position on the topic.**
4. The third paragraph should state **previous actions your country has taken.** Additionally, the third paragraph should discuss **other possible solutions** and analyze pros and cons. Depending on the amount of researching you did, you may want to create two different paragraphs: one for discussing your country’s actions and the other discussing the possible solutions.
5. The fourth (or fifth) paragraph is the conclusion. Sum up everything you have written in your position paper.

The steps have been colour-coded to match the example position paper below. Please note that the topic and data are fictional.

When you finished writing a position paper on both topics, email your paper to your committee dais. As your subject header, indicate that the email contains a position paper and indicate the country that you represent, for example: “China’s Position Paper”.



SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

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United Nations Security Council

Country: United Kingdom

Delegate: Mark Kim

Topic A: The Resurgence of Colonization

The recent resurgence of colonization has become a threat to world peace. European countries have begun to infringe the national sovereignty of other countries through military occupation. The world is at risk of plunging back to the primitive 18th century. **Specifically, the United Kingdom is concerned with the possible revolts that can occur through colonization.**

Past acts of colonization have led to molestation and anarchy. The United Kingdom, for example, has felt the detriments of colonization. **English colonizers were often unable to uphold the value of human rights. As a result, individuals who lived in colonies were abused and treated without dignity. The continuous abuse often led to violent revolts, which have caused enormous damage to both the rioters and colonizers. The United Kingdom believes that colonization will lead to the violation human rights, which cannot be tolerated.**

Currently, the United Kingdom **has publicly condemned colonizing nations.** In a speech to the General Assembly, the UK denounced the actions of colonizers and advocated the UK's support for victimized nations. Care packages have been sent to colonized nations in order to support the civilians. The UK has also taken direct actions against colonizers by **ending official ties with them.** Moreover, the UK has threatened the colonizers with the possibility of sanctions. The UK's actions have sent clear messages that the nation will not tolerate colonizers.

The United Kingdom proposes two possible solutions that the UNSC can execute. **The first possible solution is to send peacekeepers to colonized nations.** Peacekeepers will ensure that no human rights are violated by the colonizers. Furthermore, the peacekeepers will be able to engage in combat with colonizers if the colonizers conduct military attacks. **The second possible solution is to recommend the expulsion of colonizing nations.** There are legitimate reasons that can substantiate the recommendation. The UNSC can recognize the violation of national sovereignty and the infringement of human rights. The UK believes that these two possible solutions can hinder the progress of colonizers.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom has a firm stance against the prospect of colonization. The UK has openly condemned colonizers and has also taken direct action against them. The UK is convinced that sending peacekeepers and expelling colonizing nations will benefit the global community.



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