



# HOW TO WRITE POSITION PAPERS

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Writing a position paper might appear to be a daunting task, especially for new delegates. But with enough research, you will find that writing a position paper will be easy and useful. Your Position Paper is an essay detailing your country's policies on a particular topic which is being discussed in your committee. Position papers are usually one to a maximum of one-and-a-half pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions. It is based on the extensive research you have conducted and helps you organize and summarize your country's previous actions and stance on the issue at hand. Make sure your position paper attends to the questions and issues raised in your committee's study guide, and that it answers the questions posed by the guide.

This paper is to be handed in immediately before the Opening Ceremony to the respective Committee Directors. Delegates will be expected to use their Position Papers as basis for their Position Statements in the opening session. Position Papers should ideally be about a page long, or at maximum a page and a half long.

To write a position paper delegates must focus on the following points with regards to the Agenda Issue in debate:

A good position paper will have a brief introduction concerning your allotted country and its history with the committee and topic at hand;

It must include your country's policies and its justification for these policies;

It may include quotes, statistics and previous actions from your country's government;

If your country has been a party to resolutions, conventions or UN actions, your position paper must highlight this;

Not only should your Position Paper focus on facts such as previous actions or resolutions, but should also include proposals for the issue.

Particular emphasis should be laid upon how you believe the issue should be addressed and what your country expects to accomplish in the final Resolution of the Committee;

Further, an outline of the foreign policy should be given which draws attention to how the position of other countries affects your country's position.

The proposals stated in the position paper need not be lengthy, but should make it apparent that the delegate understands the complexities of the topic under the discussion. The committee Study Guides will provide a guide for the position papers and should include questions or events which should be addressed in the paper.



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;
- and
- ☐ How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

Do take note of these points while writing your paper:

- ☐ Introduce with style. Make a great introductory statement so that you may use that during your introductory speech.
- ☐ Use proper English. Ensure that each new point is in a separate paragraph and the grammar and spellings are correct.
- ☐ Explain yourself, don't complicate yourself. Keep the format, ideas and language simple. The idea is for you to summarize your country's position in the committee.
- ☐ Keep it simple. To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.
- ☐ Make it official. Try to use the seal of your country or create an "official" letterhead for your position paper. The more realistic it looks, the more others will want to read it.
- ☐ Get organized. Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- ☐ Cite your sources. Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.
- ☐ Read and reread. Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.
- ☐ Speech! Speech! Do you plan to make an opening statement at your conference? A good position paper makes a great introductory 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.



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Sample Position Paper

Committee: International Labor Organization

Topic: Globalization and Development

Country: Romania

In the past two decades the rapidly growing world trend has been toward globalization. With the emergence of the internet as a means of communication and the increasing accessibility of international trade physical barriers are not the only barriers withering away. Protective tariffs are plummeting and free trade agreements are becoming more prevalent. Romania appreciates that globalization creates favorable situations for expansion of commercial as well as economic assets. In the past year Romania has seen a foreign direct investment (FDI) increase of 199%. Inward FDI increased from EURO 234 million in 2005 to EURO 699 million in 2006. However, Romania realizes that increased globalization does not automatically produce more equality.

Globalization and Development can contribute to the advancement of the overall international human condition; however, the delegation of Romania recognizes that without proper regulation the potential for advancement will remain limited to an elite few individuals, businesses, and nations. Unless checked and aimed toward the common good, globalization cannot effectively serve the global community. Crucial in dealing with the complexities of globalization, good governance must act with solidarity and responsibility. Romania believes that in involving people in globalization we must promote moral values, democratic principals, inclusive global political culture, institutions that safeguard both individual civil rights and inherent freedoms, and the common good. In addition, coping with the influx of information from globalization governments must act with solidarity and insight. Access to digital education will undoubtedly result in the confidence of citizens in their respective administrations and allow for a greater degree of transparency, and therefore a lesser degree of corruption.

Romania believes the multinational business community has the ability and the obligation to support pertinent values in human rights, labor standards, and environmental preservation. As stated by the president, Mr. Traian Basescu, Romania feels a "heartfelt attachment to multilateralism, as an effective instrument designed to identify the adequate answers to the challenges brought by globalization."

Romania is party to the majority of multilateral treaties and conventions identified as such by the Secretary General in the context of the Millennium Summit in 2001. Romania has always supported innovative and effective ways of establishing cooperation within and between regional organizations. As one of the newest members of the European Union, Romania is an active member of the World Trade Organization, and looks forward to offering its support to the redirection of globalization to best benefit the global community.