



Position Paper Guide

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INTRODUCTION

As a delegate, position papers are essential for every Model United Nations conference. A position paper's objective is to summarize a delegation's position and possible solutions on the issues covered within their respective committee. Position papers are required to be eligible for awards at JHMUN. Even though the papers are not a necessity, we highly recommend each delegate take the time to write one.

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

Position papers are documents outlining a country's position on a particular issue. They can be difficult for some delegates to understand, especially due to its uniqueness. However, these papers generally follow a standardized format, though their contents may vary between Model United Nations conferences. It is important to put effort into creating a well-written position paper as it can improve the delegate's performance and assist with researching the assigned topic. As a result, delegates will be better equipped to effectively argue and defend their position during debates with their peers.

PRIOR TO WRITING

The research is the basis for your position paper, thus, to begin your research, it is advisable to read the background guide provided by your committee. The background guide contains valuable information and resources as well as guiding questions, which can immensely support your research. This will give you a general understanding of the topic and help you narrow your focus. Without adequate research, your position paper may not be reliable or useful.

After reviewing the background information on your chosen topic, the next step in the process of creating a position paper is to research the position of your own country on the issue at hand. If you encounter difficulties or become overwhelmed while conducting your research, you can refer back to the background guide for guidance on how to continue. This could include, answering the guiding questions provided, or utilizing the further resources listed by the guide. Once you have gathered enough information and feel confident in your understanding of the topic, you can begin writing your position paper.

OUTLINE

The position paper must be prepared in the third person as representatives of a country. To effectively produce a powerful position paper, follow this format:

1. The committee's name, your country's name, the topic's name, and your personal name should all be at the top of your position paper document.
2. It is critical to offer a quick summary of the problem at hand in the first paragraph of your position paper. This should include a basic overview of the problem as well as any relevant background information. Furthermore, you should specify the precise areas of concern that your country regards as crucial in respect to this topic. This might include the issue's impact on your country's population, the issue's economic or political ramifications, or any other pertinent elements. Overall, the beginning paragraph should establish the tone for the rest of your position paper and assist the reader in understanding the breadth and emphasis of your argument.
3. In the second paragraph of your position paper, it is important to go further into the topics stated in the preceding paragraph and offer more particular information about the challenges at hand in the second paragraph of your position paper. This might involve detailing how the problem affects your country and its residents, as well as any potential implications if the problem is not handled. You should also explain why your government considers these issues to be important and deserving of attention. Along with this extensive information, the second paragraph should clarify your country's position on the matter.
4. In the final section of your position paper, you should provide information about the steps that have been taken by your country to address the issue and evaluate potential alternative solutions. This might include describing any actions that have been taken, policies that have been implemented or other measures that have been put in place. Additionally, you should weigh the pros and cons of different options for addressing the issue and consider each alternative's potential benefits and drawbacks. Depending on the amount of research you have completed, you may want to write two paragraphs for this section - one to discuss your country's actions and another to present and evaluate alternative solutions. Overall, this section aims to provide a detailed analysis of the efforts and options available for addressing the issue.
5. Lastly, summarise your paragraphs and main points into a concluding paragraph. Remember to not rush the conclusion as it plays a large role in connecting your stance to the issue.

SAMPLE POSITION PAPER

Committee: African Union **Country:** Ghana **Topic:** Fair and Free Elections

The African Union is an organization that is responsible for the development of Africa. The main goals of the AU were to increase solidarity among nations and increase international co-operation through the United Nations. This paper will be exploring the ongoing issue of “free and fair” elections, which is under the control of the African Union Peace and Security Council. More specifically, it will be looking at Ghana’s position on this topic.

Before we go any further into Ghana’s perspective, it is important to know what the African Union thinks about this issue. According to the ‘African Charter on Democracy, Elections and Governance’, they believe that elections should be free and fair, and that ‘State Parties shall commit themselves to promote democracy, the principle of the rule of law and human rights.’ Unfortunately, in some African countries this is not happening. For example, many people in developing democracies are being intimidated to vote for a specific candidate instead of it being their own will. Another thing that is required for elections to be fair is that every voter plays by the same rules, sadly this also is not something that happens in some countries, as real democracy for them does not really exist.

As a member of the African Union, Ghana is currently implementing free and fair elections, and since 1992 there has been smooth and peaceful elections with the power of the two main political parties NPP (New Patriotic Party) and NDC (National Democratic Congress) swapping four times in this time. According to the current president of Ghana—Nana Akufo Addo, He wants to develop Ghana ‘as a democracy as a country where freedom and respect for human rights and the rule of law are paramount to [their] system of governance’. The EC (electoral commission) of Ghana is very dedicated to providing fair, free, and safe elections for its citizens and making sure that there is security, and that the elections are fair by making sure everyone is only voting once and no one is intimidated. Ghana is continuously improving its democratic structure and is becoming more politically stable.

Ghana does recognise the different beliefs of other countries in the African Union, especially the more developing ones or warzones. A potential solution for this problem could be a detailed UN resolution that would urge member states to give more rights to voters and institute laws that would stop political parties from intimidating voters and ensure that the results of the election are accurate and reliable. Another thing that could be done is to have NGOs create a code of conduct that the parties must follow to ensure fair and free elections in their country. As a member of the African Union, Ghana is very much looking forward to discussing, promoting, and enforcing solutions, as well as creating action plans that will help promote free and fair elections and create more democracy in the nations of the African Union.