



# JHSSMUN

## Position Paper Guide



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## **Introduction**

Position papers are not mere formalities; they are essential tools that showcase a delegate's depth of research, strategic thinking, and diplomatic abilities. In the context of a MUN conference, these papers stand as the foundation upon which delegates can build their arguments, engage in discussion, and are required to earn awards for their contributions. In this brief exploration, we delve into the significance of position papers and how delegates can begin formatting and writing them.

## **What is a Position Paper?**

A position paper in Model United Nations (MUN) conferences is a concise document that outlines a delegate's stance on a specific topic or issue being discussed within a committee. It serves as a formal representation of a country's or delegate's perspective, detailing their proposed solutions, policies, and objectives related to the assigned topic. Position papers provide delegates with an opportunity to showcase their research, understanding of international relations, and diplomatic skills while contributing to productive debate and negotiation during the conference.

## **Submitting Position Papers**

Position papers for the Model UN conference must be submitted punctually by midnight on the due date. To ensure a smooth submission process, save your completed position paper as a file using the format "last name, first name" and send it as an attachment in an email to your committee's designated email address. In the subject line of your email, use the same format as the file name: "last name, first name — Position Paper." Keep in mind that each position paper will be reviewed and are usually necessary to win awards.



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## **Formatting**

Formatting a position paper in Model United Nations conferences is a critical aspect of the document's overall effectiveness.

- Each position paper should be limited to one page per topic under discussion.
- Include a single Works Cited or Bibliography section at the end of the paper. This section can vary in length based on your sources but should use MLA formatting for citations.
- The paper should be in Times New Roman font, 12-point size, and single-spaced.
- Microsoft Word or PDF files are both accepted for submission.

## **Crisis Position Paper**

Crafting a crisis position paper in Model United Nations requires a unique approach. Unlike traditional position papers, crisis papers demand dynamic thinking and adaptability. Start with a concise summary of your character's background and objectives. As crises can unfold unpredictably, emphasize your character's responsiveness to evolving situations. Maintain a clear and persuasive writing style, blending historical context with contemporary urgency. Utilize vivid and engaging language to convey your character's voice and decisions effectively. Stay vigilant for crisis updates during the conference and be prepared to pivot your position as events evolve. A well-structured and responsive crisis position paper is the key to navigating the ever-changing landscape of crisis committees in Model UN.



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## **Crisis Position Paper**

In crafting a resolution paper, structuring your document is crucial. Begin with a preamble, offering background information on the issue being discussed, then use operative clauses to present your proposed solutions. Engage in collaboration by incorporating the ideas of others in your bloc as papers require sponsors and signatories. After the creation of the resolution paper, it will be presented to the assembly and amendments will be made, before it is either passed or failed. Below is an example of a position paper.

## **Formatting**

Formatting a resolution paper is a crucial to the document's effectiveness:

- Each position paper should be limited to one page per topic under discussion.
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## Example Position Paper

Delegation: Russia  
Committee: Social, Humanitarian & Cultural Committee  
Name: Emily Lin  
Topic: Uyghur Disenfranchisement

The Russian Federation, committed to the principles of sovereignty and non-interference, welcomes the opportunity to address the pressing issue of Uyghur disenfranchisement in the Social, Humanitarian, and Cultural Committee. This multifaceted matter necessitates a comprehensive and collaborative approach to ensure the protection of human rights while respecting the principles of international relations.

Russia acknowledges that concerns regarding human rights abuses demand our attention and scrutiny. We are deeply committed to the protection of human rights and support the international community's efforts to address such issues effectively. At the same time, we firmly believe that it is essential to approach this matter with the utmost sensitivity to the principle of non-interference in a sovereign nation's domestic affairs.

Regarding the specific issue of Uyghur disenfranchisement in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of China, Russia recognizes that there are differing accounts and perspectives on the situation. We urge the international community to rely on objective and credible sources of information when assessing the situation on the ground. While there may be areas of concern, we emphasize that the primary responsibility for addressing these issues lies with the Chinese government.

Russia firmly believes in diplomacy as the primary avenue for resolving international disputes. We encourage all parties involved to engage in meaningful dialogue to address any existing concerns related to Uyghur disenfranchisement. The Russian Federation commends China for its efforts to combat extremism and terrorism, which are global challenges that require international cooperation. We encourage the international community to support China in its endeavors to ensure security and stability in the Xinjiang region.

Moreover, Russia underscores the importance of respecting the principles of national sovereignty and territorial integrity. We categorically reject any external interference in China's internal affairs, including attempts to politicize the issue of Uyghur disenfranchisement. Such actions not only undermine the sovereignty of a nation but can also hinder the prospects for constructive dialogue and cooperation.

In conclusion, the Russian Federation believes that engagement through diplomatic channels, open dialogue, and collaboration offers the best path forward for addressing concerns related to Uyghur disenfranchisement. We call upon all nations to respect the principles of sovereignty, non-interference, and the territorial integrity of nations as enshrined in the United Nations Charter. It is through such principles that lasting solutions to complex issues can be achieved. Russia remains steadfast in its commitment to working collaboratively with the international community to ensure a peaceful and prosperous future for all.





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## Example Crisis Position Paper

Committee: Historical Crisis Committee

Crisis: The Cuban Missile Crisis

Representing: John F. Kennedy, President of the United States

Delegate: Artin Haghpanah

In the midst of the most hazardous crisis our nation has ever faced, I stand before this esteemed committee to address the Cuban Missile Crisis of 1962—a moment in history that brought the world to the brink of nuclear annihilation. As the President of the United States during this pivotal period, I am committed to ensuring that the lessons learned from this crisis serve as a beacon of hope, diplomacy, and restraint in the face of international tension.

The Cuban Missile Crisis was a momentous event that unfolded as a result of the relentless tension between the United States and the Soviet Union, exacerbated by the specter of the "Red Scare." The world watched with bated breath as we uncovered the undeniable evidence of nuclear missile installations in Cuba—a clear and present danger to the security of the United States and the Western Hemisphere. This crisis put to the test our nation's commitment to safeguarding the principles of freedom and democracy against the looming threat of communist expansion.

The central issue at hand during the Cuban Missile Crisis was the immediate need to respond to this Soviet provocation while avoiding a full-scale nuclear war. My administration faced an arduous dilemma: how to protect the security of the United States without pushing the world into an all-out conflict that would have catastrophic consequences for humanity.

Our response was one of resolute strength tempered with persistent diplomacy. The world bore witness to the steady hand of the United States, as we implemented a naval blockade, known as the "quarantine," around Cuba to prevent further missile deliveries. Through intensive negotiations, my administration engaged in a diplomatic dance with Premier Nikita Khrushchev and the Soviet Union, seeking a peaceful resolution to this crisis.

It is important to recognize that the Red Scare and the broader context of Cold War tensions influenced our actions during this time. The fear of communist expansion was very real, and it loomed large in the minds of American citizens. However, it was also imperative to demonstrate to the world that the United States was willing to explore diplomatic solutions rather than resorting to immediate military action.

Through backchannel communications and the implementation of a cool-headed strategy, we achieved a breakthrough. Premier Khrushchev agreed to dismantle the missile installations in Cuba in exchange for the U.S. guaranteeing not to invade Cuba and secretly removing obsolete missiles from Turkey. This resolution was a triumph of diplomacy over war, a testament to the power of negotiation and compromise in the face of ideological confrontation.

In reflecting on this crisis, we must remember that the lessons of the Cuban Missile Crisis are more relevant than ever. The importance of diplomacy, crisis management, and the pursuit of peaceful solutions to international disputes cannot be overstated. It is my hope that this committee will draw upon the experiences of this historical crisis to promote international cooperation and prevent the recurrence of such perilous situations in the future.