



Position Paper

Writing a well-researched and substantive Position Paper is the best way to prepare for any Model United Nations conference. Through the position paper your delegation will express its ideas and policies by defining your nation-state's perspective on the issues at hand. Moreover, it is the means by which you bring all of your research together in a logical and succinct form.

Overview

Researching and writing a Position Paper go hand-in-hand. While researching will give you an overwhelming amount of information, it is through the Position Paper that you will be able to narrow in on the mission you have set before yourself. In writing the Position Paper, you will be able to understand the complexity of the situations and issues, as seen from your country's vantage point. To say it simply, you will be condensing the vast amounts of books, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and websites you've collected down to just a few more comprehensible pages.

After breaking it down, your Position Paper should flow smoothly. In the end it should come to between **4-10 pages per topic**. What you should aim for however is quality not quantity. If you're struggling to reach 4 pages, please don't include your country's national anthem to get that last line stretched onto page 4. This is a sign that you need to go back to the previous section and do more research. Overall, your Position Paper should exhibit the following:

- comprehensive understanding of the situation
- an organized and argumentative structure
- original thinking that follows with the policy of the represented state
- an attitude of seriousness to the issues in question

The Position Paper, ultimately, is your opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the issues presented in the committee, and thus will go a long way in preparing you for direct interaction and debate with other delegates.



Requirements

One Position Paper is due per delegation (country) for each topic on the committee agenda, whether it has been assigned to a single delegate or partnership.

For the most part, Berkeley Model United Nations requires that the format of the Position Paper meet the following specifications (*there may be committee specific exceptions; please check your committee's blog to see if there is an exception*):

- 8.5 inch by 11 inch paper
- no cover page
- 1 inch margins on all sides (top, left, right, and bottom)
- typed
- double spaced
- 12 point Times New Roman font
- 4 page minimum, 10 page maximum length per topic
- proper spelling and grammar
- include title of paper centered, in bold, on first page
- right-aligned header stating country, committee, topic--please do not include your name or school name!
- page # of total # of pages indicated in each page's footer
- all paraphrasing and quotations must be cited in MLA format with in-text citations and a works cited page, which does not count towards the page-count

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 position paper will not be eligible for an award and WILL be brought to the attention of the school's advisor. Furthermore, any school that has more than three cases of plagiarism will not be eligible 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 \(https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/\)](https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/747/01/).

Submission

The position paper should be emailed to the head chair as a Word document. The subject of the email should read "[Country] Position Paper." To be qualified for Research Awards, submit your Position Paper by **February 10, 2016**. Otherwise, submit your Position Paper by **February 20, 2016**.



Position Paper Format

Berkeley Model UN has a great variety of committees. Therefore, there is no singular Position Paper structure. Below you will find the required format for your Position Paper and how each section will be weighed.

Please note that:

- While the References may not be strictly graded, failing to properly include it will disqualify your delegation from receiving awards.
- For the Questions to Consider section, respond to 1-2 of the Questions from your respective committee's Topic Synopsis.
- All Committee Rubrics can be found in the BMUN 64 Rubric Folder. If your Committee does not have a specific rubric, please refer to the BMUN 64 Delegate Rubric.
(https://drive.google.com/folderview?id=0B0uA_x89pznfeEdjWIJ4UnhIOFU&usp=sharing)
- Committees are listed in alphabetical order.

A/IB

1. Country's Position on the Topic (25%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (15%)*

AL

1. Country's Position on the Topic (25%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (15%)*

For more information, visit the AL Delegate Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,

BVC

1. Case Study 1 (25%)
2. Case Study 2 (25%)
3. Pitch Deck (50%)
4. References

For more information, visit the BVC Delegate Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,

CELAC

1. Leader and Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (40%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)



4. References

For more information, visit the CELAC Delegate Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,

CSC

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

DISEC

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

EU

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

FAO

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

ICJ

1. Country's relationship/history with respect to the topic (1-2 pgs)
2. Initial rulings (3-4 pgs)
3. Response to questions to consider (3-4 pgs)
4. References

For more information, visit the ICJ Position Paper Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,

JCC

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)



3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

LEGAL

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

PRESS

1. Syndicate Biography (25%)
2. Example Article (50%)
3. Question to Consider (25%)

For more information, visit the PRESS Delegate Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,

SC

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

SOCHUM

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (35%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (25%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

TUDOR

1. Biography (20%)
2. Motivation & Goals (15%)
3. Position on Topic I (25%)
4. Position on Topic II (25%)
5. Position on Heir of England (15%)

For more information, visit the TUDOR Delegate Rubric in the BMUN 64 Rubrics folder,



UNDP

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

UNHRC

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

WB

1. Country's Position on the Topic (30%)
2. Proposed Solutions (30%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (30%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*

WHO

1. Country's Position on the Topic (40%)
2. Proposed Solutions (25%)
3. Response to Questions to Consider (25%)
4. References
5. *Chair's Discretion of Overall Quality (10%)*