



Writing a Position Paper

Position papers are an integral part of MUN conferences. They serve as the statement detailing your perspective on the topic at hand and, as such, require much research beforehand. Position papers are required for all conferences; delegates who don't turn one in become ineligible for awards.

Where do I start?

First things first, **check the requirements**/recommended outline on the conference's website. The order can be switched around somewhat, but these are good guidelines to take a look at.

Then, do **thorough research** on the topics your committee will be discussing. The official UN website, your country's government website, and googling "resolutions on ___" (plenty of PDFs will show up that you can comb through) are all reliable resources. Your research binder will also come into play here.

I have my info, what next?

Now comes the actual writing. There are 2 aspects to consider: **formatting** and **content**. An example position paper can be found [here](#) and an annotated one [here](#) for formatting. Keep in mind that each topic has a 1 page MAXIMUM.

Your position paper should explain:

- **Paragraph 1: what** the issue is
 - Introduce the topic: explain how it came about, the history, etc
 - Only talk about the most important parts
 - This paragraph should be very brief
 - Formalities can go here and at the end of your position paper
- **Paragraph 2: what action** has been taken in the past to resolve the issue
 - Cite past UN resolutions, ex: Resolution 25/2625
 - Also explain what your country has done
 - Be as specific as possible. "Denmark has implemented Energy Strategy 2050, which set a target for renewable energy to be 30% of the country's energy consumption by 2020" sounds much better than "Denmark has passed policies to increase renewable energy usage".
- **Paragraph 3: the current situation** regarding the topic
 - What has changed from the past?
 - New laws/resolutions/etc
 - Stats stats stats. This is applicable for every paragraph, but statistics give credibility to your paper
- **Paragraph 4: original and creative solutions** you have come up with
 - Your potential solutions are, arguably, the most important part of your position paper. They are what really makes your paper stand out (other than obvious in-depth research) and can 1) help increase your chance of getting a position paper award and 2) make the dais interested in what you have to say before you even get to the conference.

Lastly, be sure to include your works cited (MLA is best, but if you're pressed for time, don't stress over it).

***Your position paper is a great resource to have at a conference because it's a condensed version of all your research. Make sure to print out a copy, highlight the important points, and bring it with you to the conference! This can be a lifesaver during speeches.