

Writing a Position Paper

A position paper is meant to convey a country's policy on a specific topic to the rest of the committee. The paper will generally be read at the speakers list to establish to the committee where each country stands on a topic. Therefore the clarity of one's position and reasons for such a position are incredibly important as many times the speakers list will produce clear bloc leaders at the very beginning.

What should a position paper contain?

1. Topic Background (25%)
2. Past International Action (25%)
3. Country Policy and Solutions (50%)

Questions to Answer

Topic Background

1. What is the problem? Where does it take place?
2. How or what is causing the problem? How did this become a problem?
3. How many people does the problem impact? What is the cost of the problem?

Past International Action

1. What resolutions and treaties have been passed on your topic? What international programs address your topic?
2. What has your committee done about the problem? What was its impact?
3. What have other organizations done about the problem? What has been their impact?

Country Policy and Possible Solutions

1. What is your country's policy on the topic? What has your country done in the past about the topic?
2. Who are your allies in this topic? Who are the countries you cannot work with on this topic?
3. What are your proposed solutions for the topic?

Other Notes

1. Make sure to check the conference website for position paper guidelines, there may be special requirements.
2. You are generally not required to formally cite sources, but mentioning the source in the paper is always a good idea.
3. Your position paper doesn't always have to be your speakers list speech, sometimes an abridged version may be better.