

Position Papers

Position papers are due to chairs on **October 10th**. All delegates must submit a position paper. Failure to do so automatically disqualifies a delegate from any awards. As an additional motivation, we do give a “Best Research” Award in each committee to reward well-researched position papers.

Chairs’ emails can be found within each background guide. Feel free to ask your chairs any questions you may have leading up to the conference.

Guidelines:

Position papers should be approximately one page, single spaced. They should include information from a number of sources, to be cited at the end or in the footnotes. The following is a general guide. Position papers need not follow this exact structure, but they should include all the information discussed below.

For General Assemblies:

Only one position paper is necessary. However, it should address both topics.

For each topic:

First, briefly discuss the topic in general. Give a basic history and show that you have an understanding of the basic background information.

Second, relate the topic to the country you’re representing. Explain how this issue affects your country, and describe your country’s position on the issue. This should be backed up with explicit examples of actions taken by your country regarding this issue (think UN resolutions supported or rejected, or domestic legislation).

Third, discuss your country’s relationship with other countries on this topic. Is it part of a distinct block of countries? Or does it remain independent?

Finally, conclude with a proposed solution. This may be a general outline for what you hope to accomplish, a blueprint for a future resolution, or simply creative ideas addressing the issue at hand.

For Crisis and Joint Crisis Committees:

Position papers for Crisis and Joint Crisis Committees may be a little less formal than those written for GAs.

In the first section, describe your character. Some chairs have elected to include information about characters in their background guides, others intentionally left more room to explore, and some have given you full reign over your character’s persona. Feel free to be creative. Do as much research as you

can on the specific position. Include information relevant to the position (IE, if you are Minister of Agriculture, write a sentence or two about agriculture in your country in the relevant time period). You may also include personal information about your character. Give him or her a name if you have not been assigned one. Be creative. Crisis Staffers will enjoy interacting with a creative persona far more than a nameless “Minister of XYZ.”

In the second section, provide more general information about the time period and the body you are serving in. Describe the major challenges being faced. Feel free to highlight the challenges or crises you think are most important.

Finally, write about your plan of attack for the committee. This can include both personal and public goals. You may talk about how you want the committee to deal with popular revolt, and also how you plan on taking over the country. Again, be creative. Have fun with it. The point is to get you thinking critically and creatively about the committee.

Additional Sources:

The following sources should help you when you’re working on your background guides.

<http://www.unausa.org/global-classrooms-model-un/how-to-participate/model-un-preparation/position-papers>

<http://apsva.us/Page/12903>

A Final Note: *Any delegate who is found to have plagiarized his or her position paper will be immediately disqualified from awards and his or her advisor contacted immediately. Consider yourself warned!*