



SRMUN Position Paper Guidelines

The culmination of your hard work as a delegate is first manifested in your position paper. It brings together the information that you have learned from your background guide and your individual research on your Member State and agenda topics. Once you have collected this information, it is up to you to analyze your Member State's viewpoints and develop a statement of policy toward the specific issue as framed by the background guide. In this process, you should identify the major themes of each topic and link them to your Member State's unique identity and situation.

In addition to helping make sense of the research process, position papers also demonstrate your preparedness to the staff and your fellow delegates. Not only do they represent an integral part of the conference awards, but also position papers are an important starting point for the caucus process. After finishing your position paper, you should have a clear vision of how your Member State would like to set the agenda order and reasons to back up your decision.

In summary, position papers are designed to be a brief but clear statement of your delegation's policy on the given committee agenda topics. They are intended to help you organize your ideas and bring a focus for your work at the conference. Position papers should be well researched and true to the historical foreign policy of a delegation. When composing position papers delegates must include:

- A clear and concise position/statement of policy on each of the given agenda topics;
- Recommendations/suggestions to improve each of the situations described in the background guides.

Delegates can include:

- New information regarding the Member State's history with the issue (But make sure the information is different than that provided in the background guide!);
- Endorsed conventions and/or resolutions;
- Quotes taken from speeches by heads of government/Member State documents;
- Any other pertinent information.

Your paper should develop these three building blocks:



Where can I find research on Member State's position?

1) Relevant documents:

- The UN Charter;
- The Universal Declaration on Human Rights;
- UN Millennium Development Goals;
- Relevant treaties and declarations (Your Director/AD may have mentioned these in the background guide text or footnotes).

2) Statements by prominent UN Officials or politicians from your Member State.

3) Member states that might have a similar position as your own on the issue:

- What alliances or groups is your Member State a member of? Do those Member States agree or disagree with you on this issue? Why?
- These groups may be based upon geography, circumstance or other commonality. Some suggested examples of groups are: NATO, OPEC, G-77, G-8.

How is my Position Paper different from my papers for class?

Position papers are intended to be persuasive, but also present a unified tone comparable to what is found in most UN-style writing. It may be helpful for you to review documents conceived by the current and former Secretaries-General, UN documents, and documents composed by your Member State. What tone does your Member State use when speaking to this issue? This should be reflected in your position paper. Remember also to use academic word choice and sentence structure.

Format Specifications:

- Maximum length is 2 pages for all topics;
- Microsoft Word or Adobe PDF format;
- Single spaced;
- 1-inch margins;
- Text in 10-12 point Times New Roman Font;
- **Title Heading:**
 - 12pt Times New Roman Font, Centered;
 - The first line should contain only the full name of the representative nation (e.g. The United States of America);
 - The second line should be skipped;
 - The third line should state "Positions for (your committee) (e.g. Positions for the General Assembly Plenary);
 - A line should separate the header from the main body text.
- **Topic Headings:**
 - 12pt Times New Roman Font, Aligned Left;
 - Number each topic with Roman Numerals;
 - Each topic heading should state the title of the agenda topic;
 - Skip one line between headings and body text;
- Indent each new paragraph and do not skip lines between paragraphs.



Citations:

- Formal citations are optional, but if used should be footnoted and formatted using any recognized citation style.
- While formal citations are optional, SRMUN does encourage referencing sources. For example, if a concept is presented in the Background Guide or another published document, the position paper should reference that source by including “As noted by;” “As previously presented by;” etc.
- Position papers should not contain exact copies of text from other sources unless placed in quotes and accompanied by a basic citation. Reproducing exact text constitutes plagiarism and will not be tolerated by SRMUN.

Plagiarism:

Plagiarism in all its forms is absolutely unacceptable. The Executive Staff will fully investigate any accusations of plagiarism and take appropriate action. Plagiarism may lead to a zero score on the position paper, notification of the faculty advisor, or additional consequences, based on the severity of the incident.

Example Position Papers:

We have posted the top position papers from previous conferences on the SRMUN website. They are available for viewing here: <http://srmun.org/papers/historical.php>