

MariMUN

Position Paper Guide



F.A.Q.

Q: What is a position paper?

A: The position paper is a written report outlining the attitude and stance your assigned person, organization, or country has with respect to a specified topic.

Q: Why do we need to write one?

A: Position papers are pivotal within the world of Model U.N. Every conference that we attend will require a position paper so that you may be considered for an award. In some cases, awards will be dedicated to the quality of a delegate's position paper. Beyond that, it is an amazing tool to organize your research, and needs to be revisited frequently to reinforce your country's position, and ultimately what you are arguing/fighting for during committee. If written well, a position paper will allow your chairs to take notice of you before committee even starts, establishing a great first impression.

Q: When is it due?

A: February 16th, 2018 at 11:59PM, See information at www.marimun.com/position-papers to see how to submit it.

The Basics

Length per Topic: 250 words-600 words

Spacing: 1.5 Lines

Font and Size: Times New Roman (12)

Citations: In any approved academic citation style with footnotes and a bibliography.

The Format and Content

Header:

[Your name]

[School Name]

[Country Representing]

[Name of Committee]

Paragraph 1:

Your first paragraph will consist of **introducing your country, its history on the topic being discussed and the policies it has implemented to respond to said topic.**

Your first paragraph should be short and concise. State the facts and use statistics as support. This can be an easy place to look for inspiration/information on the day of the tryout when you make your first statement in committee.

Paragraph 2:

Your second paragraph should discuss solutions that the UN has already implemented with respect to the topic at hand. There should be a discussion on the success/failure of these solutions. Ask yourself: **is there a way these policies can be adjusted to better suit your country's interests?** Or should they be scrapped entirely? In this section, you should make sure to **reference the UN actions that your country supported/did not support.** Try to understand why and try to make your case the day of the tryout.

The second paragraph should be the most researched base paragraph. By responding to the above points you will get a feel for your country's position and if you understand it, you will argue it well.

Paragraph 3:

Your third paragraph should consist of **proposing solutions to the topic at hand that is aligned with your country's interests**. You may also **address solutions that your country has already implemented but that you would want to see other countries implement**. Ask yourself: **what is it that you want to see in the UN resolution? What system(s) do you want to implement?** Try to find support for why your country favours these policies and how it has worked for your country where applicable.

Your third paragraph will be the most pertinent to your performance. Take this opportunity to think outside the box, and think critically as well as creatively about how you can create change within the confines of your country's interests.

NOTE: Since you are establishing a position for your country, first person pronouns are forbidden.

IE:

- "I believe that climate change is a risk to the entire global community"- *INCORRECT*
- "The Russian Federation believes that climate change poses a significant risk to the global community"- *CORRECT*

NOTE: In some committees, delegates may not be representing countries in a UN body. If this is case, the same guidelines should be followed, but by adapting them to the context of the committee.