



# International Monterrey Model United Nations Simulation

American School Foundation of Monterrey



## Writing a Position Paper

The position paper is a document that all delegates are required to bring to any MUN simulation. It is a document that highlights three important aspects of the delegate: their understanding of the topic, the position of their country, and the type of solutions that their country would implement. Delegates should be prepared to answer any possible question that might arise from their position paper; clarifications on certain solutions or beliefs of the country, explanations of their beliefs and solutions, and other questions they might be asked by delegates. Delegates are expected to do extensive research on the topic and their country and cite in APA format. It is very important for delegates to remember to be concise on all of their ideas; a good rule of thumb is to make sure that the position paper has the length of one page maximum—without formatting. The position paper is divided into three sections:

### I. Paragraph I: Introduction to the Topic

The first paragraph in your position paper should contain a clear explanation of the topic you will be discussing; this one should look similar to all delegates in the same committee. The information for this paragraph should stem from the background paper provided, and from the delegate's individual research. When writing this paragraph consider the following points:

- Definition of the topic in one sentence
- An explanation of the causes and consequence of the issue; how it is impacting the world
- A summary of the history of the topic from its origin to its current status
  - List one or two major actions that affected the issue
  - List one or two UN treaties or resolutions concerning the issue
- State the purpose of the committee: what must the committee accomplish

### II Paragraph II: Country's Position

The second paragraph in your position paper should contain a clear explanation of the position your country has regarding the issue; this paragraph should vary from delegate to delegate. The information for this paragraph should stem from research on your country: News Articles, Databases with facts on your country, speeches, constitutions, etc. It is utterly important that delegates stick to the position of their country and not their personal opinion. When writing this paragraph consider the following points:

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- One sentence stating whether your country agrees/disagrees with the topic
  - The position your country has on the topic
- **List** and **explain** any past/current actions that your country has taken relating to the debate
- Mention if your country is involved in any UN resolution, committee, treaty, etc.
- Know which are the allies of your country and which countries does your delegation normally work with.

### III. Paragraph III: Solutions

The third paragraph in your position paper should contain a clear explanation of the solutions your country proposes for the committee. These should be aligned with the position of the country—if your country has pro-life policies they would not suggest abortions as solution and viceversa. Make sure that your solutions build on each other: look at short term and long term impacts, consider the funding for these solutions, their implications and limitations, how will your solutions work together. When writing this paragraph consider the following points:

- Research and state the best possible solutions for the topic that align with your country's position
- Provide a thorough explanation of the solutions and how they could effectively solve the issue at hand
- Mention how your country would be specifically involved in the solutions proposed and how could other countries be involved
- Specify benefits of the solutions not only for your country but also those that could potentially profit from them

The position paper is just one of the resources that you will need for the debate. Other powerful tools for delegates to have include a *Country Facts Sheet* where they can look at all aspects of their country: from trading partners and supplies to government organization to demographics to the economy—a document that captures the whole image of your country. Likewise, *Current Events* regarding the topic; being able to cite recent news articles to support claims is a very efficient way to get delegates to listen to your opinion as it is sustained by current information. Finally, notes on the *Background Paper* are always helpful to have as they would provide the history of the problem, several perspectives, historical case studies similar to the issue, past UN actions, some possible solutions, and the current status of the situation.

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