



Model United Nations Position Paper Guidelines

A position paper is a country's official opinion on the topic(s) being addressed by the Model United Nations. It is your guide to your country's stance on committee topics, and will keep your views consistent and focused when forming a resolution in committee. Position papers also guide Committee Chairs regarding the issues of greatest interest within the topic, and help them better facilitate committee debate. Additionally, position papers typically show which delegates are the best prepared for the conference.

Each delegation is required to write **one (1)** position paper on the topic(s) that your committee is addressing and submit it to the Lyceum. Please do not submit more than one position paper for countries with two delegates (a joint paper should be submitted). The due date for position papers is listed on the Lyceum's website.

On the subject of plagiarism: Please note that the position papers must be composed entirely of original writing. *Position papers found to contain instances of plagiarism will be disqualified from the position paper awards process. This includes the topic background guides themselves.* Having said this, formal citations are not required like for an academic paper. When directly quoting outside sources, simply citing the committee name and resolution number is enough (e.g., UNHRC 16/18), or, if quoting a website verbatim, the author and page name.

Tips to writing successful position papers:

- It is to your own benefit to include as much information as you can regarding your country's stance on the topic(s) while still keeping it concise and thoughtful. You want to make your position clear to everyone, including yourself.
- Be accurate and organized in writing your paper. Be sure to include a brief introduction to your country's history regarding the topic, your country's policies and actions taken with respect to the issue, what your country believes should be done, and a conclusion.
- You should be presenting your country's official opinion about what should be done regarding the issue. This may not reflect your own personal opinion, but, since you are the ambassador for your country, you should remain consistent with their views.
- Use your background guide. If you are unable to find your country's views explicitly, then you can use your background guide to help lead you towards a position.
- If possible, include statistics and graphs as evidence. It may come in handy in convincing other countries to agree with your view.
- Keep focused on the topic at hand. Strong ideas and statistical proof will be helpful to sway votes in your favor, along with direct quotes from your country's leaders.

Position paper guidelines for the Lyceum's Model United Nations Conference:

1. Page length: Approximately **half (1/2)** a page, with a hard max of **one (1)** page.
2. Margins: **One-inch (1")** margins all around the page.
3. Font: Please use **Times New Roman** size **ten (10)** to **twelve (12)**.
4. Alignment: Please **justify** your paper so the left and right margins of the text both have straight edges (like this document).
5. Spacing: **Single**.
6. Labeling: **Country name, school name, committee, and delegate(s) name(s)** must be clearly labeled on the first page.
7. Title: Include the **agenda item** (issue) to be discussed in the title of your paper.
8. Format: Papers may be submitted as **Word** or **PDF** documents.

One person, preferably your Model United Nations advisor or club president, should submit all papers to MUN_HS@lyceum.org on or before the due date, November 2nd, 2018.

Furthermore, position papers that are submitted according to the below guidelines on or before the due date are eligible for position paper awards. These awards recognize outstanding pre-conference preparation. The following four criteria shall be used to evaluate position papers:

- Overall quality of writing (including grammar, format, style, and so on).
- Referencing relevant UN documents and resolutions.
- Consistency with regional/geopolitical constraints as well as United Nations constraints.
- Deeper analysis of the issues instead of paraphrasing the topic background guides.