



POSITION PAPER

A GUIDE ON RESEARCHING AND
WRITING YOUR POSITION PAPER



BACKGROUND - BEFORE YOU START WRITING

1. READ THE BACKGROUND GUIDE
2. COMPILE A DOSSIER
3. EXTENSIVE RESEARCH
 - a. more complete position paper
 - b. easier to write
4. DON'T BE IN A HURRY
5. COMPILE A GLOSSARY
 - a. terminology
 - b. collocations



RESEARCHING - BASIC TOOLS

1. USE GOOGLE'S ADVANCED SEARCH TOOLS:
 - a. https://www.google.com/advanced_search
2. ALLOWS YOU TO REFINE YOUR SEARCH:
 - a. search for specific words
 - b. search for specific phrases
 - c. eliminate specific words from your search
 - d. search for specific numbers



RESEARCHING - BASIC TOOLS

1. YOU CAN ALSO NARROW YOUR SEARCH BY:
 - a. language
 - b. date
 - c. country or geographic area
 - d. site or domain
2. READ THE HELP SECTION FOR ADVICE AND TIPS ON SEARCHING



ESSENTIAL SITES YOU MUST VISIT

1. FOR INFORMATION ON YOUR COUNTRY:

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

2. THE OFFICIAL UN WEBSITE:

<http://www.un.org/en/>

3. THE WEBSITE OF YOUR COMMITTEE OR AGENCY:

[http://\(name of committee/agency\).un.org](http://(name of committee/agency).un.org)

Consider signing up for updates from these sites



ESSENTIAL BASIC INFORMATION YOU MUST FIND

1. YOUR COUNTRY'S DOMAIN AND GOVERNMENT SITES:

<https://www.worldstandards.eu/other/tlds/>

2. YOUR COUNTRY'S MISSION TO THE UN:

google “your country” (permanent) mission to the UN

3. SIGNIFICANT CIVIL SOCIETY ORGANISATIONS:

<https://esango.un.org/civilsociety/login.do>



SIGNIFICANT PEOPLE YOU NEED TO IDENTIFY

1. MEMBERS OF YOUR COUNTRY'S POLITICAL SYSTEM
 - a. significant government and opposition figures
2. DIPLOMATIC FIGURES
 - a. ambassador and spokespersons at the UN
 - b. ambassadors to other relevant countries
3. OPINION MAKERS
 - a. journalists
 - b. personalities and spokespersons from civil society
 - c. dissidents in other countries



THE OTHER COUNTRIES ON YOUR COMMITTEE

1. WHO ARE MY COUNTRY'S ALLIES?
 - a. clear allies
 - b. also possible allies by affinity
2. WHO ARE MY COUNTRY'S ADVERSARIES?
 - a. open enemies
 - b. countries with different or contrasting positions or interests



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

1. FONT: TIMES NEW ROMAN
2. FONT SIZE:
 - a. text in 12pt
 - b. line spacing 1.5
 - c. main titles in 14pt
 - d. section titles in 12pt in **bold** and **CAPITALS**
3. FREE USE OF BULLET POINTS
4. GRAPHS AND TABLES PERMITTED
5. ALL SOURCES SHOULD BE SPECIFIED



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

TITLE PAGE

1. FOSCAMUN 2019
2. 22-24 MARCH
3. NAME OF COMMITTEE AND LOGO
4. DELEGATE'S NAME
5. AMBASSADOR TO THE UNITED NATIONS FOR "NAME OF STATE"
6. POSITION PAPER
7. YOUR COUNTRY'S FLAG



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER COUNTRY PROFILE

1. A LIST OF BASIC INFORMATION ABOUT YOUR COUNTRY:
 - a. official name
 - b. type of government
 - c. head of state
 - d. capital city
 - e. currency and data about wealth and poverty
 - f. area
 - g. population and any significant breakdown
2. A BRIEF HISTORY OF YOUR COUNTRY AND ITS RELATIONS WITH THE UN



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

ONE SECTION PER TOPIC

1. BACKGROUND OF THE TOPIC:
 - a. your country's history concerning the topic and the committee
 - b. how the topic has affected your country
 - c. how the topic has affected your country's relations with other countries



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

1. YOUR COUNTRY'S POSITION ON THE ISSUE

- a. your country's policies with respect to the issue;
- b. your country's justification for these policies;
- c. quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
- d. action taken by the government with regard to the issue;
- e. statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

1. U.N RESOLUTIONS

- a. conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
- b. UN action that your country has supported or opposed;
- c. any situation of conflict your country has had regarding the topic at the UN



STRUCTURE OF THE POSITION PAPER

1. POSSIBLE RESOLUTION

- a. what does your country think should be done to address the issue?
- b. what would your country like to accomplish in the committee's resolution?
- c. is there anything your country wants to avoid in a resolution?



SOURCES AND INTELLECTUAL HONESTY

1. A SERIOUS POSITION PAPER CITES ALL ITS SOURCES
2. VERBATIM QUOTES AND SPECIFIC DATA REQUIRE A FOOTNOTE
3. ENSURE YOUR SOURCES ARE RELIABLE:
 - a. UN-based sources and reputable academic sources increase credibility
 - b. government and NGO websites can be biased
 - c. news websites and blogs are likely to be biased