

Position Paper Guidelines

Position papers will be scored by the Chairs of each committee using a scale of 1 – 10. Chairs score each paper using the following characteristics as benchmarks:

A paper with a score of 1

Content

- Lacks relevant historical information on the country
 - o No country background is present
 - o No past documents signed/ratified by the country are included
 - o No treaties or organizations included
 - o No past resolutions are mentioned
- Lacks discussion of foreign policy
 - o No background on the country's foreign policy is mentioned
 - o The country's position on issues are unclear
- Lacks solutions
 - o Either no solutions are present, or they are unclear
 - o There is little that could be made into operative clauses

Mechanics

- Lacks structure
 - o Paper is poorly organized
 - o Lacks a logical flow between paragraphs
 - o Sentences and claims are not well-supported
 - o Use of "I", "my", or "we" is present
- Grammar is imprecise
 - o Grammatical errors are present
 - o Spelling errors are frequent

A paper with a score of 5

Content

- Some historical information on the country is present, but it is not relevant or it is unclear/incorrect
 - o Some country background is present, but it is irrelevant to the topic or vague
 - o Past documents signed/ratified by the country may be included
 - o Treaties or organizations may be included
 - o Previous resolutions may be mentioned
- Some discussion of foreign policy
 - o The country's foreign policy is mentioned but no reasoning is given (it is unclear why the country holds its position)
 - o The country's position on issues are unclear
- Solutions are present but they are not feasible
 - o Solutions may be vague, poorly-supported, or not feasible
 - o There is little that could be made into operative clauses

Mechanics

- Some structure is evident
 - o Paper is organized in a somewhat logical manner but some jumps of theme or reasoning are present
 - o Sentences and claims are fairly well-supported
- Grammar is correct, for the most part
 - o A few grammatical errors may be present
 - o Spelling errors are occasional
 - o Paper is in third-person voice, with occasional slip-ups

A paper with a score of 10

Content

- Historical information on country is relevant, precise, and concise
 - o Country background is thorough but specific to the topic and committee
 - o Past documents signed/ratified by the country, organizations of which the country is a part, and/or past signed resolutions are included
- Discussion of foreign policy is relevant and accurate
 - o The country's foreign policy is clear and articulated through historical examples (you can tell by the historical foreign policy precedent why the country holds its views today)
 - o The country's positions are clear and strong. You know what this country is working towards.
- Strong, coherent, feasible solutions are present
 - o Solutions are stated and the process by which they can be achieved is explained
 - o They could easily be made into operative clauses

Mechanics

- Well-structured and formatted
 - o The paper's flow is organized, from historical background → foreign policy → solutions
 - o Paragraphs flow logically
 - o Claims are well-supported with facts and data
- Grammar is correct and precise
 - o No grammatical errors are present
 - o No spelling errors present
 - o Paper is written in third person with a professional tone