

POSITION PAPER GUIDE

Writing a well-researched and substantive Position Paper is the best way to prepare for any Model United Nations conference. Through the position paper, your delegation will express its ideas and policies by defining your nation/state's perspective on the issues at hand. Moreover, it is the means by which you bring all of your research together in a logical and succinct form.

OMUN has a wide variety of committees with different styles of debate and procedure. This guideline applies to the majority of committees, but the following committees have more specific instructions for their position papers: **DISEC, SPECPOL, COPUOS, UNHRC, EU, UNSC, ARAB LEAGUE, US SENATE REFORM, CUBAN MISSILE CRISIS.**

Note: there are major changes from previous years at OMUN. Please make sure to read the format and guidelines thoroughly.

Format:

- 2 pages maximum per topic (page count does not include Works Cited)
- Single spaced
- 12-point font, Times New Roman
- 1-inch margins

GA, ECOSOC & SA Sections:

- I. Past and Current International Action (20%) (~ $\frac{2}{3}$ page)
- II. Country Policy (20%) (~ $\frac{2}{3}$ page)
- III. Proposed Solutions (40%) (~1 $\frac{1}{4}$ page)
- IV. Response to Questions to Consider (15%) (~ $\frac{1}{2}$ page)
- V. Works Cited (in MLA), as well as in-text citations

Crisis Sections:

- I. Biography of Character (20%) (~2 pages)
- II. Policy and Aspirations of Country/Group/Ideology/Policies Representing (50%) (~5 pages)
- III. Responses to Two Questions to Consider (25%) (~3 pages)
- IV. Works Cited (in MLA), as well as in-text citations

The percentages represent the weight at which the sections will be graded and recommended lengths for each section are provided. The remaining 5% that isn't listed in the sections is for the Chair's Discretion in grading, which is granted to papers that are correctly formatted with professional diction and proper grammar.

Our rubric this year will be based on a scale for each section. This scale will not be numerical to remove the association between numerical scores and letter grades. Instead, it will align with the rubric on the following page.

References:

As mentioned in the guidelines, your bibliography should follow the standard MLA format for citations. This applies to both your bibliography as well as your in-text citations. Please remember to cite all external sources of information you use, not just for quotes but also for statistics, maps, and even past solutions and resolutions. Your bibliography will not count into the length of your position paper.

In-text citations should follow the format of (Author, Year: Page Number), i.e. (Author, 2018: 10-14). Where an author is not available, you may use a shortened phrase from the title, i.e. ("Syria: The Story of the Conflict").

For more information on how to use in-text MLA citations, visit [Purdue OWL](#).

Submission:

Submission will be emailed to the chair. In-depth instructions are provided on the last page of this guide, after the rubric. Position Papers are due on April 1st in order to be considered for any committee award. Late submissions will not be considered, and submissions will be graded on a rolling basis. It is advised that delegates submit their position paper when they are done instead of waiting till 23:59 EST the day of the deadline to get it in, to avoid technical difficulties

Section Expectations:

Biography of Character	Policy and Aspirations of Country/Group Represented	Responses to Questions to Consider
<ul style="list-style-type: none">● This section should thoroughly cover relevant information about your assigned character including positions held, involvement with the conflict and the powers of their current position.● Discuss the impact of your government's structure or your ideological beliefs on your outlook for the committee.● Answer questions about if your character is biased by being conservative or liberal, Keynesian, Neoliberal, etc.<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Ask both political and economic questions about your character, and include any institutional relationships.● Provide information that is not already in topic synopsis.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Longest and most important section in the paper.● Propose a course of action that your character wishes the committee to take, and/or an initiative for the regulatory body or other characters to take in order to solve the problem.● Provide an explanation of how these solutions will be implemented and why they will be effective.● Be sure to explain how your plan for the committee meets the goals you defined.● Analyze the feasibility of what you propose and assess any weak points	<ul style="list-style-type: none">● Responds to TWO questions to consider from the perspective of your character.● Clearly identify the two questions answered, and do not answer more than two.● Intended to inspire further research and thinking on the topic, mirroring practical and ethical dilemmas that plague decision making on an institutional level.