Position Paper Outline[1]

Paragraph One – Issue and Position

Utilize this paragraph to clearly outline the main problems associated with your topic. The point of the paragraph is to provide a basic foundation as to the current situation associated with your topic. After generally describing the issue, give your country's policy regarding the issue, and state specially why your country supports that policy. Policy statements can often be as short as stating your country supports a certain action followed by a detailed qualification regarding this policy decision. This section of your position paper should not exceed five to six sentences.

Paragraph Two – Detailed Background Information

This paragraph is an opportunity for you to show the depth of your knowledge about the past and current situations regard your topic. Be sure to discuss:

- Historical origin of the problem, particularly why the problem arose,
- How does the issue relate to the international community and why is it of international concern,
- Previous actions taken to try and solve the problem (if any),
- Successes and failures of past actions and why they succeeded or failed,
- Problems that continue to exist or ones that have not yet been addressed,
- Devoting two to three sentences per item on this list should allow you to have sufficiently discussed the topic and to set the foundations for the final paragraph of your position paper.

[1] "Model United Nations / Writing a Position Paper." *Model United Nations / Writing a Position Paper*. Washington Lee High School, 17 June 2011. Web. 27 Nov. 2015. <http://www.apsva.us/Page/12903>.

Paragraph Three – Proposed Solutions Regarding the Issue

This paragraph is the one that will set your paper apart from the others. After identifying the problems in paragraph two, utilize this paragraph to list your solutions to all the problems you enumerated above. The quality of your solutions could be a great determinant in the overall evaluation of your position paper. Be sure to discuss:

- Specific proposals regarding how to solve specific issues,

- How each individual proposal will be implemented, including the feasibility,

- Global impact of solving the problem or implementing these solutions,

- Mechanically, your position paper should follow the guidelines set forth by the conference, such as margin width and font size. I would recommend a few guidelines though to make your paper look and read professionally. First, limit your position paper to one page, and do not write about both topics in the same position paper. Write one position paper for each topic, and print each position paper on its own, separate piece of paper. Second, place a heading at the top of your paper including your country, issue, and committee. Feel free to place a picture of your country's flag in the header if you so desire.