

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES



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ARIZONA MODEL UNITED NATIONS

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HOW TO WRITE YOUR POSITION PAPERS —

Your position paper is your first impression on the chair and other delegates, as this year they will be posted on the website before the start of conference. This is your chance to explain your country's position on the topics. Remember they will likely serve as the starting place for debate at conference. It can be helpful to look over the position papers of other delegates as you are finishing to prepare for the conference. While it is not mandatory to write a position paper, delegates will not be eligible for most awards should they choose not to.

All representatives will write one position paper per topic. Each paper will be around 300 words long, and will include brief statements about the country's position on the topic, what the United Nations and the country has done in the past to improve the situation, and possible solutions moving forward for the proposed issues. Delegates should identify which parts of the issue are most important to their country and what they would like to focus on in debate. Delegates can and should reference resolutions from UN bodies or other work by the UN to help support their ideas. Background guides* can and should be used as jumping off points for research into solutions and the history of the topics; however, delegates should remember that the best position papers do not just paraphrase the background guides, but rather include original and country specific ideas.

Security Councils do not have predetermined topics, so positions papers are a little different. Delegations will write one paper that includes the two or three topics that they think are most important.

The topics are not limited to the ones in the background guide. Representatives should keep in mind which issues are most important to their country when they select their topics to write about. It is recommended that these papers, after addressing the topics delegates deem most important, total 600 to 900 words in length.

While there is no formal works cited required, delegates should give credit when they use the ideas or words of another. Repercussions to plagiarism is at the discretion of the chairperson.

If you have any questions about the topics please contact your chairs; their names and emails are listed in their background guides.

Position papers are due at **11:59PM** on **February 22nd**. Position papers will still be accepted **after** February 22nd, but will be ineligible for awards.