

Position Papers

Why write a position paper?

- For the Comunidad de Madrid evaluation process
- To summarize your research
- To improve your writing skills
- As a VERY helpful guide for your speech at the conference

In order to begin writing your position paper, you MUST:

- Have all the necessary research on your country and topic
- Have specific and focused research questions
- Continue looking for useful information and good sources
- FOLLOW INSTRUCTIONS!

What is a position paper?

- Basically, this is an essay that expresses your country's position on your topic and proposes solutions and recommendations for the future.
- It has a very specific structure that you must follow. We will help you with this, but you must take responsibility for producing good writing!

How many drafts will you write?

- At least three, if not more. This process is just as much about revising as it is about writing.
- We will give you feedback on each draft. Read our feedback carefully and talk to us if you have questions or concerns!

Structure of a Position Paper

- I. Introduction (1 paragraph)
- II. Body (3 paragraphs)
- III. Conclusion (1-2 paragraphs)

I. Introduction

- Brief introduction to the topic in general and a statement on your country's position.
- For example, Sports: Rwanda has a history of valuing sports- in schools, recreational organizations, and on professional teams.
- For example, Democracy: France has long considered itself a democracy, though recent events have revealed flaws in the democratic process.

II. Background: National and Foreign Policy on the Topic

- *Paragraph 1:* Specific actions taken by your government related to the topic.
 - For example, Sports for Peace and Development: My country has tried to promote more after-school physical education programs for children.
 - For example, Democratic Governance: My country has tried to improve the fairness of election practices through technology.

II. Background Continued

- *Paragraph 2:* Conventions and resolutions supported by your country, related to your topic.
- For example, Sports: My country recently signed the Magglingen Call to Action to promote sportsmanship worldwide.
- For example, Democracy: My country recently ratified the Declaration of Human Rights to show its support for political and social freedom around the globe.

II. Background Continued

- *Paragraph 3:* Statistics and quotes from government officials that express your country's policies.
- For example, Sports: In a speech on sports and education, President Obama said that "physical activity improves emotional wellbeing."
- For example, Democracy: Only 48% of Americans believe their democracy is working. This shows a need to improve democratic practices in the United States.

III. Conclusion

- Your country's recommendations to the committee on how to best resolve the issue in the future.
- For example, Sports: We believe that the best solution to this problem would be for the media to promote more positive images of sports and physical fitness.
- For example, Democracy: We recommend that Japan create a coalition of other Asian countries to promote the empowerment of women and their participation in the political system.

Tips for writing a good position paper

- Use simple language.
- Give each separate idea its own paragraph.
- Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.
- Constantly proofread for mistakes!
- Cite your sources.

Sample Position Paper

Committee: International Labor Organization

Topic: Globalization and Development

Country: Romania

**This sample position paper was submitted by the delegation of Romania at the 2007 UNA-USA Model UN Conference in New York City.*

In the past two decades the rapidly growing world trend has been toward globalization. With the emergence of the internet as a means of communication and the increasing accessibility of international trade physical barriers are not the only barriers withering away. Protective tariffs are plummeting and free trade agreements are becoming more prevalent. Romania appreciates that globalization creates favorable situations for expansion of commercial as well as economic assets. In the past year Romania has seen a foreign direct investment (FDI) increase of 199%. Inward FDI increased from EURO 234 million in 2005 to EURO 699 million in 2006. However, Romania realizes that increased globalization does not automatically produce more equality.

Globalization and Development can contribute to the advancement of the overall international human condition; however, the delegation of Romania recognizes that without proper regulation the potential for advancement will remain limited to an elite few individuals, businesses, and nations. Unless checked and aimed toward the common good, globalization cannot effectively serve the global community. Crucial in dealing with the complexities of globalization, good governance must act with solidarity and responsibility. Romania believes that in involving people in globalization we must promote moral values, democratic principals, inclusive global political culture, institutions that safeguard both individual civil rights and inherent freedoms, and the common good. In addition, coping with the influx of information from globalization governments must act with solidarity and insight. Access to digital education will undoubtedly result in the confidence of citizens in their respective administrations and allow for a greater degree of transparency, and therefore a lesser degree of corruption.

Romania believes the multinational business community has the ability and the obligation to support pertinent values in human rights, labor standards, and environmental preservation. As stated by the president, Mr. Traion Basescu, Romania feels a "heartfelt attachment to multilateralism, as an effective instrument designed to identify the adequate answers to the challenges brought by globalization."

Romania is party to the majority of multilateral treaties and conventions identified as such by the Secretary General in the context of the Millennium Summit in 2001. Romania has always supported innovative and effective ways of establishing cooperation within and between regional organizations. As one of the newest members of the European Union, Romania is an active member of the World Trade Organization, and looks forward to offering its support to the redirection of globalization to best benefit the global community.