

Spring Conference Position Paper Guidelines

Dear Advisors and Students:

The Iowa High School Model United Nations provides updated guideline information to write country position papers acceptable for the annual spring conference.

The primary purpose of the position paper is to allow United Nations member nations to state their country's views and issues on the topics presented in the committees. Student delegates write these position papers to demonstrate their knowledge of current and historical events of their country, the topics, positions of other countries (both allies and advisories), and justifications for their country's position.

IHSMUN will only accept position papers using the template described on the following page. This template will simplify the process and make it easier for secretariat members to identify the topic and country. If the papers are not in the correct format, do not be surprised to see the paper returned. The purpose of a uniform position paper format is to foremost emulate the diplomacy of the real United Nations and secondly create a professional conference.

Secretariat members will critique and grade students' position papers in February. We will read the paper, determine whether it passes our rubric, and act accordingly. If the paper passes, we will save it for our records and post it on the IHSMUN website. If the paper needs to be revised or re-written, we will write comments directly on the paper, explain what needs the most attention, and return it to the school. Advisors also have the option of correcting students' papers themselves and submitting them to IHSMUN by on or before the appropriate deadline posted on the IHSMUN website.

Finally, under no circumstances will the IHSMUN accept plagiarism. Secretariat members review position papers carefully and check facts and statistics. Any submitted plagiarized paper will be returned and the school advisor will be notified.

Position papers can be a confusing aspect of the Model United Nations experience for delegates and advisors. For any questions or comments, please contact the IHSMUN office. The secretariat members and I are here to help and wish to make Spring Conference preparations as simple as possible for everyone.

Thank you,
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POSITION PAPER TEMPLATE

Committee name

Topic

Country

Student Name

School

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The background information should include the main elements of the topic. This includes important historical information and the current situation. It is also necessary to provide past UN actions, resolutions, Secretariat studies or surveys, referrals to other UN bodies (e.g. World Court) or other findings concerning the topic. This section is generally one-half to three-quarters of a page in length (single spaced).

COUNTRY'S POSITION

This section is the place to explain how the topic affects the delegate's country and its policies. It should include information about how the topic has influenced the country historically and currently. Most importantly, this section should raise a specific stance/position on the topic. The objectives to solve the issue should be listed, as well as identification of expected sources of support and opposition. Furthermore, a strategy should be outlined for introducing a Resolution and securing sponsors and ensuring supporters. Information about a country's position can be found within UN sources, such as speeches, votes on Resolutions pertaining to the topic, and proposed draft Resolutions. More information can also be found in comments about the issue in the national press, government documents, periodical articles, speeches of leading government officials, and subject experts. This section is generally one-half to three-quarters of a page in length (single-spaced).

JUSTIFICATION AND SUMMARY

The justification and summary is probably the most important section of the position paper, although it is often overlooked. This section provides concrete reasoning for the country's position. It also includes suggested actions for future discussion at the conference. Finally, it summarizes the three sections into a concise justification for the country's position. This section is generally one-quarter to one-half page in length (single-spaced).

Position Paper Example

ECOSOC

World Bank and IMF Reform

Republic of Korea

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BACKGROUND INFORMATION

The International Monetary Fund (IMF) is the world's chief organization for international monetary cooperation. Started December of 1945, this organization currently has 185 member countries. The IMF's main purpose is to ensure exchange rate stability and encourage member countries to eliminate exchange restrictions that delayed trade. The international monetary system is a system of exchange rates and international payments that facilitate countries into buying goods and services from each other, which the IMF is partially responsible for overseeing. Other goals of the IMF are to reduce countries vulnerability to economical and financial crisis. IMF also makes temporary financing available to member countries. Issuing loans to certain countries in crisis helps to maintain a more stable currency so as to prevent currency inflation. The Brentwood System, agreement to keep the value of currencies in terms of the U.S. dollar, held until 1971.

Just like the IMF, the World Bank is made up of 185 member countries. The World Bank is made up of two distinctive development institutions, the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development (IBRD) and the International Development Association (IDA). Each institution plays a separate role for the same mission. The World Bank's mission is to reduce global poverty and improve living standards. IBRD focuses on middle income and creditworthy poor countries, while the IDA focuses on the poorest countries in the world. The World Bank provides low-interest loans, interest-free credit and grants to developing nations for education, health, infrastructure, communications and many other reasons.

Past United Nations action on this topic is the UN Millennium Development Goals with a target date of 2015. All countries and the leading development institutions have agreed to the UN Millennium Development Goals. The UN Millennium Development Goals range from halving extreme poverty to halting the spread of HIV/AIDS and providing primary education. The financial assistance and advice offered by the IMF to its poorest members is partially outfitted to help them attain the goals of: eradicating extreme poverty and hunger, achieving universal primary education, promoting gender equality and empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, combating HIV/AIDS, malaria, and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and developing a global partnership for development.

COUNTRY'S POSITION

South Korea is on the IMF's Board of Directors. South Korea, along with China, Mexico, and Turkey are the most underrepresented countries on the Board of Directors, but the shares given to those four countries have been increased. Also, the Republic of Korea is on board with the UN Millennium Development Goals, which is directly linked to the IMF. In 1998 the South Korean government did speak with international banks over the country's staggering short-term debts. Because of that, radical labor groups were planning a campaign against the IMF reforms. South Korean workers feared for the future and the uncertainty of job stability was on the rise. Overall, the South Korean government is concerned with the same things that the World Bank and the IMF is concerned with.

JUSTIFICATION AND SUMMARY

The World Bank and IMF have the support of 185 nations. Both have goals devoted to the well being of the world's countries and the greater good. Developing nations have the right to the same chance at industrialization and even just the same right to money for necessary goods and services that all of the more developed nations do. With the support of an enormous amount of countries and a joint effort, we should work towards getting developing nations on their feet.

**This position paper reprinted with the expressed consent of the author.*

Secretariat Notes:

This position paper is a great example of the information required. The delegate includes credible historical and current information about the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund. Additionally, the author mentioned previous United Nations actions. Finally, the country's position is clearly stated and justified.

However, this paper could have been improved in a couple different methods. A resolution or special report number should have identified the past UN actions (e.g.S/2004/786). Facts and statistics could be used to further clarify and justify the country's position.

Overall, this position paper scored a 4.5 on the 5-point rubric.

Position Paper Rubric

	1	2	3	4	5
Background (x4)	No examples of action when action has taken place and no description of the problem	No description of problem, but an example of action taken	Small description of problem and few examples of past action	Moderate description of problem and several examples of past action	In-depth description of problem and many examples of past action taken
Description of Country's Position (x4)	No discussion of country's position	Country's position briefly mentioned needs elaboration	Country's position present, but is contrary to political beliefs	Country's position stated with examples	Country's position stated and well developed
Justification and Summary of Position (x4)	No justification given for country's position and no summary	No justification but a summary is present	Justification present but with little proof and a brief summary of position	Justification present and slightly developed and brief summary of position	Well developed justification and summary of position
Spelling (x2)	More than 8 spelling errors	6-8 spelling errors	3-5 spelling errors	A couple of spelling errors	No spelling errors
Grammar and Punctuation (x2)	So many errors: difficult to read	Many errors: difficult to connect ideas together	Several errors: May be confusing but does not impede overall understanding	Few errors: they do not impede understanding	Free of grammatical and punctuation errors
Clarity/Organization (x2)	No order or organization	Random or weak organization	Lapses in focus or coherence	Logical organization	Careful and suitable organization
Language/Sentence Structure (x2)	Incorrect wording and/or no fluctuation in structure	Ineffective wording, lack of topic or structure	Simplistic language and awkward/simplistic sentence style	Effective language and varied sentence structure	Precise, rich language and variety of sentence structure and length

Total Points Earned: _____ (Out of 100)

Additional Requirements for Position Papers (going into effect Spring 2011):

- A bibliography must be present with all position papers.
 - Each bibliography must contain at least three sources. None of these sources may be a Wikipedia article. (All must be appropriate scholastic sources.)
 - Each bibliography must use proper MLA format
 - Position papers must be at least 2 pages, single spaced
 - Papers should be typed in 12 point Times New Roman font.

Points Breakdown:

95-100

90-95

84-89

78-83

72-77

66-71

0-65

- Awards for outstanding Position Papers will be given to those delegates who earn 95 points and above.
- Any paper that does not earn at least 65 will be returned to the delegate for revision and resubmission.