

Colegio Americano de Durango

Model of the United Nations

Writing Position Papers

A position paper is a three paragraph essay in which the delegate explains the history or basic facts about the topic, states their country's position on the matter, and explains their country's proposed solutions. The purpose of the position paper is to effectively present a country's stance on an issue and allow the delegation to propose its solutions to the committee.

Delegates should plan on preparing a position paper for each topic they will be debating. The first session of each topic is partly dedicated to allowing delegates to read their position paper out loud to the committee. Usually, a total of seven or eight delegates come forward. The entire process is organized by the committee's chairs by way of a speaker's list. Delegates are usually given two to three minutes to read their position paper, and then the committee gets the opportunity to ask them questions regarding their stance.

Requirements and Format:

For efficiency, CADMUN position papers follow a certain format, which is outlined below:

Headings: The position paper's headings are located at the top left corner of the document and should look like this:

- **Committee:**
- **Topic:**
- **Delegate's name:**
- **Country:**
- **Delegate: School:**

Paragraph 1 - Background information: The first paragraph of a position paper should present the topic. It should address its basic history and major controversies. Including facts and statistics is ideal. This paragraph should focus only on the topic, not the delegate's stance; it should be neutral and present no country's opinions.

Paragraph 2 - Country's stance: The second paragraph of a position paper should focus on the delegate's country regarding the issue. The paragraph must clearly state and explain the position of the country, how this topic affects the country and how it has attempted to solve it in the past.

Paragraph 3 - Proposed solutions: The final paragraph of the position paper should outline the country's proposed solutions. The union of various delegate's solutions will hopefully become the backbone for the committee's final resolution.