

Position Papers and Resolutions

A Guide

Position Paper: What is It?

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1. A one-page paper on:
 - a. Main characteristics of the topic
 - b. Past actions on the topic
 - c. Proposed solutions

2. Goal
 - a. To establish country's policy and interest on the topic
 - b. To establish research effort

Position Paper: Elements

-Usually a one-page paper with three parts:

1. Paragraph 1:
 - a. Importance of the topic/Relevance
2. Paragraph 2:
 - a. UN and Country's Past Actions
3. Paragraph 3:
 - a. Proposed Solutions
4. Sources
 - a. As footnotes
 - b. Part of the one-page
 - c. Correctly cited

Position Papers: Paragraph 1

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—Provide a position on the topic by describing:

1. The history
2. The current status of the topic
 - a. Its current relevance
 - i. Use statistics
3. The main participants
4. The most affected areas
 - a. The consequences
 - b. Use statistics
5. Quotes by your officials

Position Papers: Paragraph 2

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-Go over the previous main solutions and analyze them

- a. Why did they work?
- b. Why did they fail?

This can include:

-Past resolutions

-Programmes

-Treaties

-Bills passed in your country (laws)

-Agencies

-Regional Bodies

Position Papers: Paragraph 3

-Give a summary of what your country's solution

a. You do not have to be extremely specific

i. You can give a short outline

ii. Include your country's goal

1. Make sure the solution aligns with the goal

2. Make sure the goal aligns with your country's policy

Let's see some examples: Achieving the Millenium Development Goals and Refugee Crisis

Position Paper: Activity

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1. In groups

- a. Write a position paper for one of the assigned topics (The teacher will assign groups and topics)
 - i. In order to write a good position paper you will have to:
 1. Read background guide
 - a. Main actors
 - b. Main affected areas
 - c. Overall idea of the topic
 - d. Organizations
 2. Research
 - a. Status of the topic
 - i. Statistics
 - ii. Effects/Consequences
 - b. Past Actions
 - c. Your country on the topic
 - i. Ideas for solutions

Resolutions

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1. Definition:

- a. “The formal expression of the opinion or will of United Nations Organs” (un.org)
 - i. Force
 - 1. Security Council: Law (can be enforced)
 - 2. Other organs: Suggestions/Recommendations

Resolution: Parts

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1. Code

- a. Committee, Status, Topic, Number of Document
 - i. Ex. SC/RES/1/1-Security Council, First Resolution on First Topic
 - 1. Provided by Chair

2. Heading

- a. Committee Name
- b. Sponsors
- c. Signatories
- d. Topic

3. Preambulatory Clauses

4. Operative Clauses

Resolution: Heading

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1. Heading
 - a. Committee Name
 - i. General Assembly, Security Council, SOCHUM, UNHRC, etc.
 - b. Sponsors
 - i. Authors of the resolution
 1. They have to actively write their ideas on the paper
 - a. They have to be on policy
 - i. Other sponsors and ideas
 2. All or some will be in the author's panel
 - c. Signatories
 - i. Those who want to see the ideas debated
 - d. Topic
 - i. The topic being discussed at hand

Disclaimer: this is the most common format, but it depends on each conference

Resolution: Preambulatory Clauses

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1. States the issues the committee wants to resolve
2. Reasons to address the topic
3. Highlight previous international actions
4. Supports operative clauses
 - a. Can include:
 - i. Past UN resolutions, treaties, or conventions related to the topic
 - ii. Past regional, non-governmental, or national efforts in resolving this topic
 - iii. References to the UN Charter or other international frameworks and laws
 - iv. Statements made by the Secretary-General or a relevant UN body or agency
 - v. General background information or facts about the topic, its significance, and its impact.

Resolution: Preambulatory Clauses

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1. Format

a. Preambulatory phrase (see chart)

i. *Italicized*

ii. -ing

b. Comma at the end of the phrase

1. Example:

a. ***Reaffirming* international law, in particular the Charter of the United Nations, and recalling the Universal Declaration of Human Rights,**

Resolution: Preambulatory Phrases

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Sample Preambulatory Phrases

Affirming	Expecting	Having studied
Alarmed by	Expressing its appreciation	Keeping in mind
Approving	Expressing its satisfaction	Noting with regret
Aware of	Fulfilling	Noting with deep concern
Bearing in mind	Fully alarmed	Noting with satisfaction
Believing	Fully aware	Noting further
Confident	Fully believing	Noting with approval
Contemplating	Further deploring	Observing
Convinced	Further recalling	Reaffirming
Declaring	Guided by	Realizing
Deeply concerned	Having adopted	Recalling
Deeply conscious	Having considered	Recognizing
Deeply convinced	Having considered further	Referring
Deeply disturbed	Having devoted attention	Seeking
Deeply regretting	Having examined	Taking into account
Desiring	Having heard	Taking into consideration
Emphasizing	Having received	Taking note
		Viewing with appreciation
		Welcoming

Resolution: Activity

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1. Research (You can use the research done for the Position Paper Activity)
 - a. Past actions on the assigned topic
 - b. The state of the topic
 - i. Statistics
 - ii. Effects/Consequences
 - iii. Actors
2. Create Preambulatory Clauses using the ideas researched
 - a. Ex.
 - i. Idea: **Address the issue of HIV/AIDS rapid spread in Sub Saharan Africa**
 - ii. Clause: ***Alarmed by the 17% increase in HIV/AIDS contraction among sub-Saharan African countries in the past five years,***

Resolution: Operative Clauses

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1. Proposed solutions to the issues
2. Addresses the specific issue proposed in the Preambulatory Clauses

Resolution: Operative Clauses

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1. Format

- a. Preambulatory Phrase
 - i. -es
 - ii. Numbered
 - iii. Underlined
- b. Semicolon
- c. Period in the last one

2. Example:

- a. **1. Resolves to bridge the artificial intelligence and other digital divides between and within countries;**

Resolution: Operative Phrases

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Sample Operative Phrases

Accepts	Encourages	Further recommends
Affirms	Endorses	Further requests
Approves	Expresses its appreciation	Further resolves
Authorizes	Expresses its hope	Has resolved
Calls	Further invites	Notes
Calls upon	Deplores	Proclaims
Condemns	Designates	Reaffirms
Confirms	Draws the attention	Recommends
Congratulates	Emphasizes	Regrets
Considers	Encourages	Reminds
Declares accordingly	Endorses	Requests
Deplores	Expresses its appreciation	Solemnly affirms
Designates	Expresses its hope	Strongly condemns
Draws the attention	Further invites	Supports
Emphasizes	Further proclaims	Takes note of
	Further reminds	Transmits
		Trusts

1. Some are exclusive for Security Council:
 - a. Directs, Requests, Demands, etc.

Resolutions: Security Council

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1. End of resolution

- a. “Decides to remain seized of the matter.”
 - i. If they add this clause, the GA cannot discuss the topic

Resolution: Activity

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1. Research/Think
 - a. Possible ideas for solutions to the topic
2. Create Operative Clauses using the solutions you created
 - a. Ex.
 - i. Solution: **Distribute low-cost medicines for HIV/AIDS to sub-Saharan African countries**
 - ii. Clause: **Calls upon the developed countries and major pharmaceutical countries to provide low-cost, generic medicines for HIV/AIDS to sub-Saharan African countries;**

Resolution: Preambulatory and Operative Clauses

Tips

1. You want more Operative than Preambulatory clauses
 - a. More solutions than problems
2. The more detailed your Operative clause, the stronger it is
 - a. Answer: who, what, when, where
 - i. Sub-operative clauses
 1. If you have an “a”, you need a “b”
3. Some Operative Phrases are reserved for Security Council

Resolution: Examples

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1. UN Example: [GA Resolution](#)
2. MUN Example: [Life-WALC Plan](#)

Resolution: Levels

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1. Working Paper

- a. The solutions you are drafting with your bloc before they are introduced to the dais

2. Draft Resolution

- a. A Working Paper that has been introduced and accepted by the dais

3. Resolution

- a. Once a Draft Resolution is voted on and passed

Resolution: Amendments

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1. **Modifications** to Draft Resolutions (Operative Clauses)
 - i. Additions
 - ii. Subtractions
 - iii. Changes
- b. Friendly**
 - i. Modifications agreed on by all sponsors
 1. Signed by sponsors
 2. Admitted by chair
 3. Automatically incorporated into the Draft Resolution
- c. Unfriendly**
 - i. Modifications not supported by all the sponsors
 1. Need to be voted on by committee

Resolution: Activity

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1. In groups:
 - a. Write a Resolution for the topic assigned
 - i. Try to incorporate the Preambulatory Clauses and Operative Clauses that each created
 1. Add onto the Operative Clauses to make them stronger
 - b. Author's Panel
 - i. Present your resolution
 - ii. Answer questions from your classmates