



# Researching and Writing Position Papers

## Position Paper Purpose

The **summary** a delegate writes following months of research, and then uses in the role of ambassador to **negotiate world affairs** at an international conference.

## MMUN Position Paper Checklist



Components	Evidence of Comprehension
<b>Heading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Committee name</li> <li>• Topic name</li> <li>• Delegation</li> <li>• Student delegate name(s)</li> <li>• School name</li> </ul>
<b>History/ Background</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Description of the issue</li> <li>• Facts/statistics</li> <li>• UN resolution and/or document(s)</li> <li>• Relevant dates</li> <li>• Main actors and victims</li> </ul>
<b>Position/ Policy</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Country's current position</li> <li>• Speeches/quotes from committee officials, government officials, international community including UN</li> <li>• Facts/statistics</li> </ul>
<b>Strategies/ Suggestions</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Strategies that are working</li> <li>• New strategies based on old strategies that are not working</li> <li>• Delegate's creative solutions to improve or address the prob</li> </ul>
<b>References/ Bibliography</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Three or more citations: include all sources that you used/cited in your paper (one can be the Background Guide)</li> <li>• Bibliography MLA format- three (UE)/ four (MS) or more sources</li> </ul>
<b>Format</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Font size: 12pt</li> <li>• Margin: 1 inch on all sides</li> <li>• Line space: double</li> <li>• File format in word doc or PDF</li> <li>• Number of pages: 1 1/2 -2</li> </ul>
<b>Editing</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Correct tense</li> <li>• Capitalization</li> <li>• Punctuation</li> <li>• Flow</li> <li>• Correct spelling</li> <li>• Error free</li> </ul>

## Three Main Points that the Bureau Looks For:

1.

CURRENT POSITIONS  
OF THE MMUN  
COUNTRY

2.

SOLUTIONS IN LINE  
WITH THE COUNTRY'S  
POSITION

3.

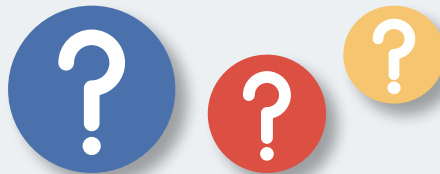
THREE STRONG  
SOURCES ON THE  
RESOURCE PAGE

## Ambassadors and Country Represented

Always speak or write about one's country in the most **positive** way possible.

**NEVER criticize** the policies of a country; instead, point out how improvements are being made to a current problem

**Find out** as much as possible about any “**bad press**” there may be regarding an issue and one's country to be able to discuss remedies or explain policies to fellow ambassadors.



## What Questions Can a Teacher Ask to Support the Position Paper Process?

1. Where to find more resources? How to dig deeper?

2. How do past actions help influence possible solutions?

3. What do good solutions look like?

4. How many resources are enough?

# Common Issues and Solutions!

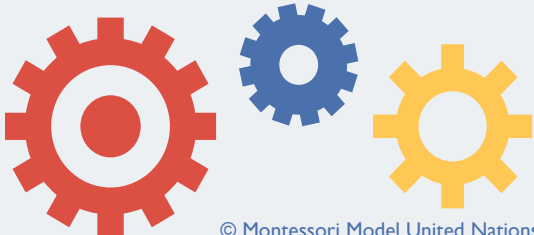


## COMMON ISSUES



## SOLUTIONS


- 1.** Not enough research — The delegate doesn't feel confident enough or able yet to begin the paper  
Have the delegate write all facts and figures down, and then organize them
- 2.** Too much country background info and not enough topic info from their country's current position  
Be sure not to "get lost" in the history of the country and forget about the problem
- 3.** Perspective problems  
Look for global solutions, not just ones that are country focused
- 4.** Solutions are not evident  
Help the delegate clearly state each solution
- 5.** Solutions may be vague or conflict with the current government's position  
Review resources and highlight supporting evidence
- 6.** Both Delegates in a committee need to know and understand both topics  
Each delegate is responsible for participating in the writing and research for both topics in order to debate and negotiate with fellow ambassadors
- 7.** There is no resource page or the delegate didn't include enough resources  
Research, research, research. Ask any adults in your community to help research the topics and country information
- 8.** Too short or too long  
Ask your ambassadors: Will you be able to negotiate on behalf of the country on this topic? If not, more research is needed!



© Montessori Model United Nations. All Rights Reserved. Originally prepared by Peter Megginson. Updated by MMUN for 2020.



**Montessori Model UN**  
244 Fifth Avenue, Suite 2966  
NYC, NY 10001  
*MMUN is an NGO in Special Consultative Status  
with the Economic and Social Council*

  
[www.montessori-mun.org](http://www.montessori-mun.org)  
[info@montessori-mun.org](mailto:info@montessori-mun.org)