RIMUN 2014 Study Guide: How to Write a Position Paper
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INTRODUCTION

Most Model United Nations (MUN) conferences, including RIMUN, require delegates to submit a so-called position paper prior to the conference. Well aware that several delegates in this year’s RIMUN are taking part in an MUN conference for the first time, this brief study guide is intended to help you get a sense of what exactly a position paper is, what we expect to see in your position paper, and how you should go about writing one. Should you need any help doing your research for your position paper, you can always refer to the study guides for your committee and the Resources for Further Study provided there, and/or RIMUN’s Preparation and Research Guide.

WHAT IS A POSITION PAPER?

The position paper is essentially a policy statement from your assigned country, that is all there is to it. A position paper need not be long: usually, a position paper will be 1-2 pages in length, with a few paragraphs. It is a way for the organizers and the chairs of the conference to see that you come to the conference prepared and able to contribute to the debates, but it is also intended for you as a delegate, as an efficient way to organize and summarize your research. Since the most vital points of your country’s position on the subject is already in your position paper, it will be a document which you can always refer back to throughout the conference.

A well-written position paper will generally provide answers to some of the following questions:

- What is your country’s history and relationship with the topics that will be debated and the committee that you will take part in?
- How does the issues that will be debated affect your country?
- What are your country’s policies with regards to the issues that will be debated, and what are the reasons behind these policies?
- Are there any statistics that back up your country’s position?
- Do you support/have you supported past UN actions on this issue?
- What does your country think should be done to address this issue?
- What would your country like to see in this committee’s final resolution?
HOW DO I WRITE A POSITION PAPER?

Most position papers (the good ones) follow a clear structure, which can be divided into 4-6 parts/paragraphs. They are:

1) **General introduction of the topic** – in this section, the goal is simply to provide some background information on the subject and state why it is significant.

2) **Identification and description** – the next section is intended for you to identify and describe how the issues in question have affected your country. However, remember to do this in a fairly objective manner – state facts, not opinions.

3) **Policies/solutions** – in the third section of your position paper, you will have to describe why your country holds the position it does; outline the area(s) in which your country wants to see reform; and emphasize one area in particular that affects your country.

4) **Conclusion** – restate your country’s position, and express what you would like to achieve during the conference.

Another way to look at the structure of the position paper is to view it as though it were a hamburger. The structure of the position paper would then be as follows:

- **Top bun** – introducing your country and its historical experience with the issue and the UN body
- **Lettuce** – your country’s policies (domestic and foreign)
- **Tomato** – your country’s view on international actions, resolutions etc.
- **Burger** – statements from your government/ministers/agencies, statistics on the issue
- **Bottom bun** – conclusion/wrap-up; your country’s suggestions for aspects to include in the final resolution

Follow any of these models, whichever suits you best, and you will have the structure of your position paper outlined in no time!

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1 UNAUSA – Writing The Position Paper
FINALLY: A SAMPLE RESOLUTION

To conclude this guide on how to write a position paper, below is a sample position paper, which you may refer to if you are struggling with writing your own position paper. The following position paper was submitted by the delegation of Romania at the 2007 UNA-USA Model UN Conference in New York City.

Committee: International Labor Organization
Topic: Globalization and Development
Country: Romania

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 principles, 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. Traian 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.