

Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations

POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

After consulting the delegate guide published for the Berkley Model United Nations, the following guidelines have been adopted for the composition of position papers for the Tennessee YMCA Model United Nations. Each member state is required to submit a total of 4 position papers.

YOUR CONTENT SHOULD INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

I. Topic Description

To begin, you will choose one topic from each standing committee, from the list provided. Then, your position papers on each of your four chosen topics should begin with a topic description. Your topic description should provide you a context for the sections of your paper that will follow. In addition, this section should illustrate your understanding of the respective committee's role in the resolution of the conflict or topic. Think of the topic description in these terms: a reader with no previous knowledge of the topic should be able to fully understand the rest of your position paper after reading your topic description. Specifically, your topic description should include the following:

- Historical Background

You want to provide some historical background associated with the topic in order to understand the developments that lead to the current situation. As part of your historical background, describe any events that fueled the birth of the current topic. In addition, you might want to briefly touch on any past action related to the topic.

- Current Situation

You should illustrate the current situation as it relates to the topic. Have any UN resolutions been recently adopted, proposed, etc. The position your member state takes on the topic will be based on the nation's desires for the resolution of the current situation, so it is paramount that your position paper covers the current situation effectively.

- Key Issues

Identify the key issues surrounding the topic. Attack the key issues from this angle: you want your reader to know what YOU believe is important. Identifying the key issues will also help you extrapolate the most important parts of what is probably a boatload of information. From this point forward, you only want to focus on the things you've identified as most central to the topic in question.

II. Past United Nations Action

This should be the section of your paper where evidence of your research shines. In other words, this is your opportunity to further discuss in detail any of the actions you learned about from your research of the elements in your topic description. In order to successfully present your research, you should strive to identify some themes in past actions and cite those resources you've found to be relevant. Those resources could include UN resolutions, documents and speeches. The key to your position paper is not how many sources you've cited, but rather, how well you've interpreted the sources you've determined to be the most paramount in understanding the topic. This is the section where you should do just that.

III. Delegation Policy

This section provides you with the first opportunity for *your* nation to take a stand. When you consider your research of the topic and your research of your country, where do the two meet, or even collide? Clearly state your delegation's position on each of the key issues you've previously identified in the paper.

IV. References

Each of your position papers should end with the citation of each source that you used in the composition of your paper. You may use the style of citation to which you are most accustomed.