

## **Writing Position Papers and Resolutions**

Position papers and Resolutions, along with Background papers, are the most important component of your Model UN experience. Without them, you are essentially a lost nation. Position papers will be your guide to your country's stance on your committee's topics. You are an ambassador from your country. Remember, you are not here to advocate your own views, but rather, the views of the nation you are representing. Your position paper will be your main guide, and will aid you in keeping your views consistent and focused when forming resolutions in committee.

### **Writing Background Papers** (See: Country Background Paper)

Background papers are intended to help Ambassadors become familiar with the countries they are representing. The background paper should include information the country's population, government, economy, geography, military, environment, culture, etc.

### **Writing Position Papers** (See: Sample Position Paper)

A position paper is your country's official opinion on a topic being addressed by the Model United Nations. You are required to write a position paper on *each* topic that your committee is addressing and submit them by April 16, 2009. There is no required length to each position paper. However, it is to your own benefit to include as much information as you can regarding your country's stance on each topic. Position papers will be used to lead in to writing resolutions in committees.

Each position paper is to be submitted online at the MUN (<http://calymca.org>). Some tips to writing position papers are:

- Keep it concise and thoughtful. You want to make your position clear to everyone.
- Be accurate and organized in writing your paper.
- You should be presenting your country's official opinion. This may not reflect your own personal opinion. But, since you are an ambassador for your country, you should remain consistent with their views.
- Use your background papers as a guide. If you are unable to find your country's views explicitly, then you can use your background paper to possibly figure out your position on a topic.
- If possible, include statistics and graphs as evidence or an explanation of your position. It may come in handy in convincing other countries to agree with your view.
- Keep focus on the topic at hand.

During the session, copies of the position papers will be available to all the ambassadors in each committee. These papers will be critical to finding out who your allies or enemies are and what compromises might be reached with them. Your goal is to have as many of your country's views and ideas included into the resolution. However, there will be opposing countries attempting to do the same and conflicts are sure to arise. Use your position papers as a guide, as strong ideas and proof in statistics will be helpful to sway votes in your favor.

## **Writing Resolutions**

Resolutions are the basic, formal statements that the United Nations produces to express its collective opinion, suggest a course of action, or commit one or more of its various organs to a specific activity. Resolutions are produced in the General Assembly, ECOSOC, and Security Council when a consensus is reached on each topic. Resolutions may be either general statements or directions for specific organizations, bodies, or states. There is a limit of ONE resolution per topic area. It is to the benefit of the committee or organ to gain consensus from at least 70% of the countries represented in the committee.

When forming your resolution, use your position paper to your advantage. Again, make sure you stay consistent with your country's stance on each topic. Your statistics will come in handy.

### **Resolution Format Guide** (See: MUN Sample Resolution)

#### **HEADING**

A template will be available where the person writing the resolution will supply information such as organ, committee name, topic area, and resolution. You MUST format the resolution with this template.

#### **BODY**

The resolution is written in the format of a long sentence. The following are the format rules for resolutions, similar to how there are grammatical rules for sentences.

1. The resolution begins with an address to the organ of concern for each resolution. This is similar to how you would address a letter (see: MUN Sample Resolution)
2. The next section consists of Preambulatory Causes and describes the problem being addressed, recalls past actions taken, and explains the purpose of the resolution and offers support for the Operative Clauses that will follow. You want to clearly define the issue at hand, using a new Preambulatory Clause for each point. You can use as many Preambulatory Clauses as the committee sees fit, and the more you include, the more clearly your resolution will be.
3. Lastly, list Operative Clauses that state the action the committee recommends. A list of these clauses is included. Each Operative Clause ends with a semi-colon (;) except the last sentence, which ends in a period.

#### **CONTEXT**

A well-written resolution demonstrates:

1. Familiarity and a clear definition of the issue. Relevant background information and previous UN actions are included. Statistics are very useful.
2. Recognition of the issue. Arguments on the topic are specified early.
3. Conciseness. Every clause and phrase should clearly address the issue.
4. Good form. Grammar and spelling should be correct. Spell-checking is a must!

## **PREAMBULATORY PHRASES**

The preamble of a resolution does everything but proposes action or makes any substantive statement on the topic at hand. The perambulatory clauses can include:

- Reference to the U.N. Charter
- Citation of past U.N. resolutions or treaties that have been ratified on the topic under discussion
- Mention of statements made by the Secretary General or a relevant U.N. body or agency
- Recognition of the work or efforts of regional organizations in dealing with the issue
- General statements on the topic, its significance, and its effects

### **Samples of perambulatory phrases:**

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

## **OPERATIVE CLAUSES**

Operative clauses are set out to achieve your country's main policy goals on the topic. Each operative clause begins with a verb and ends with a semicolon. They should be organized in a logical progression, and each clause should contain a single idea or policy proposal.

### **Samples of operative phrases:**

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