

Frequently Asked Questions about Position Papers
International Leadership Texas/Osgood Center
Lone Star Model United Nations 2023
(LSMUN2023)

What is a position paper?



A position paper is **brief statement** summarizing the most important views of the country that you will represent in your committee. You should list and refer to the resolutions, conventions, protocols, and programs that are relevant to the policy of your assigned country. It should also include **proposals** or **solutions** to the problems that will be discussed in your committee.

The summary of the previous actions taken by your country are as important as the future actions that your country recommends must be taken by your committee.

These questions can be helpful to write your position paper:

1. Why is this problem/issue important? Who should care about this problem? Why is this problem/issue relevant for the United Nations? Why is this an important issue for your committee? What are the repercussions of not addressing this problem?
2. What actions have been taken to address this issue? What United Nations' agencies or commissions have dealt with it? What protocols have been created to effectively address this issue? What specific conventions, conferences, meetings, have been held to address the issue and propose courses of action? What documents have resulted from these meetings (resolutions, treaties, conventions)? (Framed in terms of your country's support or rejection of these diverse efforts) Has your country signed/ratified those documents?
3. Can you identify a link or connection (in terms of your country to the work that has been done)? Has your country contributed with any resources to address the issue (financial resources, human resources (missions)? Has your country sponsored or attended relevant conferences? Has your country signed treaties, protocols, and conventions? **Has your country taken notable steps domestically to address this issue?**
4. What solutions can your country propose to solve the problem? (While there is some freedom to produce these ideas and that the proposals do not need to be directly linked to your country's position, they should not contradict the country's interests. Focus can be on multilateral steps, or on regional organizations, or on pursuing domestic/national legislation that will address the problem. **It is advisable to limit the proposals to no more than three clear and concrete plans of action.**

What is the format of a position paper?

Position papers should have a specific format:



Length: no more than **TWO** pages



Font type: Arial, size 10 points



Margins: must set at 1 inch or 2.54 cm. for the whole paper.
Justify the text for your paragraphs so the left and right margins both have straight edges.



Labels: Country (“delegation of”) and committee name must be clearly labeled on the first page.



**The document (file) should be in PDF format
(Word document converted to PDF)**



You should NOT provide your name, school name, or grade.



You should NOT write the paper in the first person of the singular or second person of the plural. “I” or “we” statements should not be part of your paper. You should write the paper from the perspective of the country that you are representing. **For example, you can write: “The Russian Federation believes that...”**



You should not include national symbols (headers, flags, etc.), elements of graphic design (frames, ribbons) or visual aids (maps, tables, and photographs). They are deemed inappropriate for LSMUN 2023 position papers.

What is the content of a position paper?

Your position paper should address **both topics listed** in the **background guide** of your committee. **Each committee topic must be developed and labeled in a separate section.** The topics should be presented in the same order in which they are listed in the background guide. In other words, the first section should be about topic 1. The second section should be about topic 2.



You do not need to include footnotes or formal citations as you do in a regular academic paper. While these elements are not required, **you should use quotations marks** if you are referring to a direct quote or if you need to give credit or to acknowledge the source of a statement.

The paper should be written with a formal tone. It should be written as if you are giving voice to a foreign minister of your assigned country. **The content of your paper should be original.** After you do research, you should write your own ideas (**consistent with the policies of the country that your delegation is representing**). **You should not present others' works as if they were yours.**



When should I submit the position paper? How many position papers should be submitted by a delegation?



You should submit the position paper of your Delegation by **FEBRUARY 17th, 2023, 11:50 P.M. (Eastern Time).**

If you worked with a delegate partner, you should submit ONE position paper written collaboratively as a delegation by the deadline.

You should send your position paper to this email:

osgoodcenterprograms@gmail.com

Within 48 hours of your submission, you will receive an email with the confirmation of your submission.