Position Papers!

A guide to writing Position Papers…

At the very top, you should have an ‘info box’ that states the name of your committee, country, your name, your school and the topic(s) of the position paper.

Council: ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE

Representing: AUSTRALIA

Delegate name: DANIEL MITROPOLSKY

From: APPLEBY COLLEGE

Topic: (1) ENDING GLOBAL WARMING

Your first paragraph should introduce the topic. The introduction section should be very short, concise and to-the-point. It is not your duty to retell the topic (trust me, the chair already knows the topic), it is your duty to summarize it and define it, and this is only for two reasons:

a) So that the chairs can see that you understand what the topic is about at all
b) So that you can move smoothly into the next paragraphs of the paper

NOTICE: there is NO c) that says “So that the chairs know everything about the topic”. In your first paragraph, you want to put the most critical things possible about your topic, and give a definition. You don’t want this to be longer than 95 words.

To get started, fill in below, and use the information in your paragraph;

WHAT DOES MY TOPIC MEAN?

_______________________________

WHAT ARE THREE SMALL BUT IMPORTANT FACTS ABOUT IT?

1)

2)

3)
Global warming is an international problem of growing importance. Global warming is the increase of temperature everywhere because of the destruction of the ozone layer, the atmospheric layer that protects the Earth from many excessive sun rays. The increase in temperature destroys animal habitats and kills biological matter, as well as effecting human patterns. The reasons for Global Warming are traced to human pollution and production, especially in industrialized nations such as the U.S. Ending Global Warming has been an extremely popular topic that is often discussed in the United Nations.

Paragraph 2 requires a lot more understanding than paragraph 1. In paragraph 2, you should describe the involvement of your country in this topic. It is important for you to know that some people like to stick this right into paragraph 1, which is fine. Remember that it is not mandatory to right in this paragraph-division format exactly, but it is recommended to write in this order of information. Again, feel free to create more than 3 paragraphs if it helps the essay flow better.

Paragraph 2 is supposed to start off by again stating your country. You begin with writing about the history of your country in relation to this topic (what decisions has your country made in relation to the topic? What have they built/enforced? What have presidents/prime ministers said about the topic? How has my country prevented/created the problem?). This history should be brief, and lead into the present day topic in your country (What is my country doing now? How is my country helping/not-helping with the problem in the present day?). Here, it could be effective to state: What UN decisions/resolutions have already been passed about this topic? (Has the UN already made progress about the topic and if so what?). The chair is to get an idea about what your country does and feels for the topic and problem at hand.

Fill in this organizer to get you started and use the information in writing Paragraph 2;

1) DOES MY COUNTRY CONTRIBUTE TO THE PROBLEM OR FIGHT AGAINST THE PROBLEM, OR BOTH?

_________________
2) WHAT HAS MY COUNTRY DONE IN THE PAST THAT EITHER CONTRIBUTES TO OR TRIES TO SOLVE THE PROBLEM? (short, simple points)
   a) 
   b) 

3) HAS THE UN MADE ANY PROGRESS BEFORE ABOUT THE TOPIC?
   YES 
   NO

IF YES, LIST NO MORE THAN 2 EXAMPLES
   a) 
   b) 

HOW DOES MY COUNTRY FEEL ABOUT THE TOPIC NOW? (THIS SHOULD TIE INTO WHAT THE COUNTRY IS DOING ABOUT THE TOPIC)

WHAT IS MY COUNTRY DOING RIGHT NOW THAT IS ADDING TO/HEALING THE PROBLEM?

   a) 

It may seem like there is a lot of information required, but always try to keep it concise. Try to aim at making paragraph two as short as possible, no longer than 160 words.

And the example;

Australia is truly concerned about Global Warming. In the past, Australia began to recognize the threat of Global warming in 1997, when a conference in Sydney was held to introduce effective programs to sustain the environment of Australia, and to preserve the Ozone Layer. Australia has travelled to the international Environmental Summits in Europe 6 times, including 2002 where it signed the Kyoto protocol. Australia became fully involved in limiting its pollution and harmful gasses. Nowadays, Australia has many public programs for the fight against global-warming and public awareness. Environmental awareness is mandatory in every school and grade in Australia. The UN has passed many resolutions and decisions, such as creating Environmental councils to directly discuss the problem, as well as introducing global conservation projects such as the Kyoto protocol. Australia is fully involved in all of them and believes that the international combination of efforts with every country together can be effective in terminating the destructive process.
The final paragraph, paragraph 3, requires the most creativity and is the most important paragraph in the Position Paper. Every person has their own style in writing paragraph 3, and everybody includes their own things into it. I will talk about everything that you could put into paragraph 3, but I’ve highlighted only the things that MUST be there.

Paragraph 3 starts by **rephrasing the opinion** of your nation about the problem. It is important to clearly identify your opinion in order for your arguments to make sense to you and the chair. Then, you have to propose either **one or two specific ideas** about how to solve the problem. These are the kinds of solutions that you have thought of yourself, that you are prepared to share in committee and convince other people to believe. It’s better to have just one, incredibly well thought-out and developed solution rather than 3 mediocre ones. Look at the example;

**Solution for global warming:**

Good, 1 solution:

Create a special committee that will dispatch representatives in every country in the United Nations. In order for a business to be functioning or existing (in order for a business to have the right to make/lose money), it must have a special permit permission from this international council. The council only awards the permission if the business is environmentally sustaining, and does not do things that harm or affect the ozone layer. Also, government taxes are to be diverted from the support of minority integration in every nation on Earth by at least 40% to a fund that is paid to businesses producing environmentally friendly products to reduce their cost, so that people can buy them and use them.

As opposed to:

So the first solution is to tell people to stop leaving garbage outside. The other solution is to create a council that will find polluting businesses and close them. The third solution is to give free products to people that are environmentally-friendly and don’t have bad chemicals.

*Which one is better? Hmm, you decide…*

It is mandatory to have at least one well-thought-out solutions, and is recommended to have more. Personally, I generally include 2 well-thought-out solutions.

Next, it is strongly recommended to include a further development upon solutions. Imagine that your solution is rejected right away. Oh no. Well, this is no time to freak out. The last part of paragraph 3 focuses on **ALTERNATIVE SETTLEMENTS**. It is recommended that **BEFORE OR SOMEWHERE AFTER** your solution ideas, you right the standards for your country (what is the absolute minimum or the bare requirements for the decisions made in the committee?) From these standards, you can write a few sentences about a kind of solution that somebody else might propose and you **would agree** to as an alternative (if no-one supports your issue). This should be expressed like this;
If none of our nation’s proposals are accepted, we would probably agree to something that we want less, such as a resolution that proposes that every country creates an annual report about its progress in fighting global warming.

Optionally, you can continue with this, including what you would like to have the most (your own ideas), what you would be fine with (some other idea, don’t go into much detail) and what you would barely accept at the very least. This should obviously be listed in order of preference (from your ideas to the end of the paragraph where you say what you would barely agree to if you had no choice…)

Try to keep paragraph slightly but not much longer than paragraph 2. Remember: BE CONCISE!

Fill in this model to help you:

MY COUNTRY’S OPINION IN A SENTENCE:

________________________________________________________________

MY IDEA(S) FOR SOLVING THE PROBLEM AND THEIR EXPLANATION

a)  

b)  

WHAT ARE MY STANDARDS

IF NONE OF MY IDEAS ARE ACCEPTED, WHAT WILL I DO?

   a) Be stubborn and not agree with anything 😞
   b) Agree to some ideas that I am less happy with 😊

Often, you will see the “if none of my ideas are accepted, what will I do?” part being referred to as the BATNA (Best alternative to a negotiated settlement)

Here is a basic example of paragraph 3;

As mentioned, Australia believes that Global Warming is an incredibly important problem, and Australia believes that it must be solved immediately using investment. One of the proposals for a solution that Australia is going to suggest is to introduce an international council that sends representatives to every UN-recognized nation. These representatives will give environmental sustainability ‘passes’ to businesses, given if the negative effect of the business on the Ozone layer and environment is deemed insignificant. Without a pass, businesses are not allowed to operate. Another proposal is to divert taxes to a fund that will reduce the price of products that
are produced in businesses with high environmental-sustainability ratings, and those that do not contain ozone-layer harmful chemicals. We this solutions, both the business and personal levels of Global Warming reasons are treated. Australia’s standards are to reduce the amount of ozone-layer destroying chemicals by at least 5% from the decisions made in the council, and another standard is that each nation is equally restricted to solve the problem. Australia would agree to resolutions that further limit the total nation’s pollution level. Australia, at the least, would barely agree with resolutions that introduce fines for having chemicals that ruin the ozone layer.

From this template you’ll create your position paper.

Good luck writing your own! Below is another example of a position paper that you could use as a reference.

HIV/AIDS in the Workplace

There is widespread discrimination against HIV positive persons. Among those HIV positive, sex workers are at the most risk for contracting HIV. With 81 million migrant workers, their likelihood of sexual exploitation is significantly increased, and the stressful situations migrants are forced to travel under, make them more susceptible to contracting HIV. Health worker migration is also of deep concern. Right now in Africa for an example, a mere 1.3 percent of health care workers care for people suffering 25 percent of the AIDS epidemic.

Colombia is in the process of improving the monitoring and evaluation of HIV/AIDS programs, in order to develop a more reliable set of indicators. The development and implementation of the Sexual and Reproductive Health Policy is a key element of Colombia’s response. Colombia has addressed the links between sexual violence, teen pregnancy, maternal mortality and HIV within health services. Gender inequality, poverty and the social marginalization of vulnerable populations had a negative effect on sexual and reproductive health indicators, including those that dealt with HIV/AIDS.

In the area of prevention, Colombia has, with the support of the European Economic Community and UNAIDS, consolidated the component aimed at reducing the transmission of HIV from mother to child. Colombia has worked hard to reduce the vulnerability of teenagers in areas affected by forced displacement. It is necessary to emphasize prevention for vulnerable populations that had been
affected the most by HIV, such as men who had sexual relations with men, sex workers and those deprived of their freedom. “Only through focusing efforts where the epidemic was concentrated would it be possible to stop the advance of HIV/AIDS and prevent its spreading. The complexity of the work at hand required greater donor support. Only by stopping the poverty-sickness-poverty cycle would Colombia and other countries be able to avoid a generalized epidemic. The challenges and complexities posed by the AIDS pandemic meant that the international community needed to work together in a more coordinated fashion.”

Lastly, please email acmun@appleby.on.ca if you have any questions! Good Luck! Remember the deadline of submitting position paper is: 30/3 11:59 p.m.