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| **MUN**  **2020**  **ㅡ**  Position paper- DUE 13th March   * Sample   Research guide   * Country Profiles * Topic coverage | horizontal line **POSITION PAPERS** (500 words)  Opening paragraph- General information   * Why is this topic important for the committee to address * Why does your country care about this topic? * Country’s policies on this topic   National Actions   * Is the topic an issue in your country? * What actions has your country taken to address this issue on a national level   International Actions   * How has your country addressed this issue on an international level? * What conventions, treaties and resolution has your country supported on this issue? * What organisations is your country a part of that addresses this issue?   Recommendations for Action   * What role would your country like to see the international community take to address the problem? * What are your country’s recommendations to the committee on how to best resolve the issue? * Outline what you wish to accomplish for your country: what is the "ideal situation."   If you have a clear idea of what this means walking in, when presented with other resolutions you will have a firm grasp of what should be added in order to get that resolution closer to the "ideal situation" for your country’s interest.  In other words,   * How can your country get the most out of the committee? * What does your country need most in regards to this topic? |

**EVALUATING POSITION PAPERS**

* Format and Language
  + Includes all 4 sections
  + Grammar and punctuation is correctly used
  + Tone is professional and diplomatic
  + Works are cited as in text references and includes primary and credible sources
* Topic Background
  + Clearly defined, inclusive of relevant facts and statistics
  + Root causes are explained
  + Sub issues that need to be addressed are mentioned
* Past International Action

Use the whitepaper

* + Explain key UN resolutions, treaties or conventions
  + Implementation, progress and other organisations on the action are recognised
* Country policy
  + Impact on country
  + Clearly states the country policies
  + Explains action taken domestically or internationally
* Possible solutions
  + Explains the strength and weaknesses of the proposed solutions
  + Highlights major political or regional group tensions
  + Solution must be consistent with country policies

**RESEARCH GUIDE**

Suggested Websites:

* CIA: The World Fact Book

<https://www.cia.gov/library/publications/the-world-factbook/>

* U.S Department of State

<http://www.state.gov/r/pa/ei/bgn/index.htm>

* United Nations Website

<http://www.un.org/>

* Permanent Mission of Country to the UN

<http://www.un.org/members/missions.shtml>

* UN System: UN Organisations

<http://www.unsystem.org/>

* BBC Country Profiles

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/africa/country_profiles>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/americas/country_profiles>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/asia-pacific/country_profiles>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/south_asia/country_profiles>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/middle_east/country_profiles>

<http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/europe/country_profiles>

Researching a Country

* Official name of the country
* Continent
* Official languages
* Demonym
* Capital
* **Is your country a part of a bloc?**
  + Does it hold similar views to other bloc members
* Form of government
  + Independent?
  + Current ruling parties?
  + Head of state
  + Theocracy?
  + Colony or coloniser?
  + Monarchy?
  + Affiliation to political organisations
* Overall impact and influence of government on policies and UN participation

Geography

* Population
* Coastline or landlocked?
* Surface area
* Land type
* Major religions
* Literacy rate
* Poverty rates
* Ethinic groups
* Ethinic minorities

Economy

* MEDC/ LEDC?
* Major imports and exports
* Percentage of unemployment
* GNP per capita
* HDI
* Natural resources

Defense

* Allies/ enemies?
* Affiliation to military organisations
  + Members of the organisation
* Nuclear power?
* Independent military?
  + Who controls the military power?
* Relationship with other nuclear powers?
* Currently in war or in danger of war
  + Involved parties- allies or enemies

Influence

* Major opposition?
* Member of many organisations
* Main allies?
* Regular member of ECOSOC or SC

How to Research an Issue

1. Highlight key words
2. Find relevant document on the issue
   1. Conventions
   2. Treaties
   3. Previous country policies
3. Current situation and influence on the issue
4. Position of country
   1. Signed into treaties?
   2. Attended conventions and conferences?
   3. Signed any documents?
   4. Actively involved in this issue?
   5. For or Against?
5. Write resolution!

**Resolution do’ s and don’ts**

Preambs:

* Do
  + State strong and recent facts about the issue
  + Use statistics where applicable
  + Mention the past situation and current situation
  + Recall any passed resolutions by the UN on the issue
  + Recognise any other organisations involved in the situation
  + State relevant organisations’ efforts in the situation
  + Use *developing countries/LEDCs* or *developed countries/ MEDCs*
* Don’t
  + Be biased
  + Use *“Third World countries”/ “poor countries”* or *“First World countries”/ “rich countries”*

Operatives:

* Do
  + Aim to find solutions, which solve the smaller problems that contribute to the issue
  + Elaborate on the solutions in your operative clauses (sub clauses and sub-sub clauses)
  + Make use of any UN organisations or create ones to help the issue
  + Emphasize cooperation between governments and relevant UN organisations
  + Explain different methods of approaching the same problem through clause
* Don’t
  + Break a countries sovereignty over its land
  + Be vague with your solutions and explanations as to how to go about solving the issue
  + Create unrealistic solutions to the issue
  + Mention current documents, legislations or acts already in place under operative, if mentioned do so under preambs.

**Useful Phrases**

* “Is it in order to…”: Is it allowed to
* “It is in order to…”: It will be allowed
* “It isn’t order to…”: It won’t be allowed
* “Debate Time”: Time set for this debate
* “Time Constraints”: Restrictions of time
* “Request for Follow up?” (to the chair): Can I ask another question?
* “Yield the Floor”: Give the floor to someone else
* “That will be Entertained”: That will be allowed to happen
* “That won’t be Entertained”: That won’t be allowed to happen