

CHARACTER ASSIGNMENT & SPECIALS COMMITTEES POSITION PAPER GUIDELINES

Position papers are meant for delegates to understand and describe their vision for the committee. For certain committees with character assignments, delegates should aim to understand how the background of their committee topics and their country OR character stances will be affecting the progression of the crisis arcs.

Content

Position papers should be divided into five sections—four substantive and a Works Cited. For administrative purposes, each page should have a header. See below for a specification of the purpose and content of each section.

Header

On the far left of the paper, delegates should provide the formal committee name. In the line immediately following the formal committee name, delegates should add the topic on which that page of the position paper is about. On the far right, aligned with the committee name, delegates should provide the formal name of the character they will represent.

A: Historical Background

In this section, delegates should write a brief context of the history behind the given topics. They may refer to the subtopics noted in the topic synopses and may note any other specific subtopics that they feel are relevant to their assigned country/character. This background can also include analysis by the delegates, and describe clearly what they think would be the major challenges faced by the people in the time period, and what events would be most impactful for the crisis arcs that may show up during committee sessions.

Repeating information verbatim from the topic synopsis is insufficient to receive points on this section; delegates should make an effort to seek high-quality research beyond what was given to them in conference materials.

B: International Involvement / External Actors (If Applicable)

This section focuses on how external involvement has impacted the specific situations in the given topics. This includes, but is not limited to the UN's actions, neighboring countries' responses, and any external factors that have affected the topic. This would also include past potential solutions that have been implemented, and why or why not they have not been successful.

C: Country Policy / Character Profile

For crisis committees with assigned characters, delegates must research their characters' backgrounds and motivations, especially taking note of how their past work and life would affect their decisions and interactions with other characters. When writing about their characters, delegates should make use of the third person and discuss how they have responded to the topic so far.

For crisis committees with assigned countries, delegates should research their country's stance on the topic and how their governments have responded to the subject. They can also include points about the reaction of the citizens, and their relationships with other countries in their bloc — and how they have leveraged these resources in the past.

D: Crisis Plan

After having researched the topic's historical context and their assigned character/country's position, delegates should focus on their approach to committee debate. In this section, focus on proposing solutions to the subtopics and the committee goals. Delegates must write creative, clear, and practical actions that they intend to work towards in committee. Aspects of these solutions can include direct solutions, diplomacy, use of potential portfolio powers, and interaction with committee (and non-committee) members. This section must be especially conscious of the scope of power of the assigned character / country (in the context of the committee structure) to ensure clear descriptions of plans.

E: Questions to Consider [OPTIONAL]

Delegates may add a section, if space allows, to answer any specific questions as posed by the committee Directors in the topic synopses. By focusing on responding to one (or more) questions directly, delegates can demonstrate their understanding of the structure of the committee and further their crisis plan.

Since this is an optional section, it does not merit extra credit, nor will delegates lose points for not explicitly including this section. This is simply another opportunity for delegates to show their plan for the crisis committee and elaborate on any points from previous sections.

Works Cited

Citations (both in-text and in the final pages) should be in MLA format. Each topic should have a separate Works Cited section. Every claim that is made should be cited from an academic source or a reputable news organization, or it may be considered plagiarized. Papers that fail to cite sources for claims or ideas that are not their own may be removed from award eligibility. Under no circumstances will plagiarized papers be eligible for awards. Works Cited will not count toward the 4 page limit.

Please note that the following items are not included:

- Title pages
- Country profiles
- Delegate's names
- School's name

Formatting

The following format is a requirement for all position papers. Position papers that drastically deviate from this format may be removed from award eligibility.

- **PAGE LIMIT:** There is a maximum of 4 pages per topic (not counting the Works Cited section).
- **FONT AND SIZES:** Papers should be double-spaced, with 12 pt Times New Roman font.
- **FORMAT AND MARGINS:** Papers should have 1-inch margins and be fully justified.
- **SECTION TITLES:** Label sections clearly and distinctly (boldface or italics are preferred).

Page Allocation

UCIMUN does not formally require a strict page allocation. The allocation listed below, however, is strongly recommended and reflects UCIMUN's approach to scoring position papers. As stated before, position papers may not exceed four pages per topic.

- A: BACKGROUND

The Background section should be the shortest of the three, as much of the same information is provided in the topic synopsis (approximately 25%, or slightly less).

- B: INTERNATIONAL INVOLVEMENT

International Involvement should be slightly longer, or equal to background. UCIMUN recommends against shortening country policy to add more to International Involvement (approximately 25%, or slightly more).

- C: COUNTRY POLICY

Country policy should be the lion's share of the paper (approximately 50%).

- WORKS CITED

As stated before, the Works Cited is not counted toward the page limit; please take this as an invitation to source your papers thoroughly.

Submission and Awards

In order to be eligible for research awards, delegates must submit position papers to the form listed below **by 11:59 PM, March 31st, 2025**. Position papers submitted later than this deadline will **not** be eligible for research awards.

In order to be eligible for committee awards (commendations, outstanding, and best delegate), delegates must submit position papers to the form **by 11:59 PM, April 4th, 2025**. If delegates fail to submit position papers by this deadline, they will **not** be eligible for committee awards.

When submitting position papers, submit both topics together as a single document in PDF format. Position papers submitted as DocX files or Google Drive links will be returned to delegates until submitted as PDFs. Submit these PDFs, with the titles in the format specified below:

COMMITTEE NAME Country/ Character name

For example, if Apollo was submitting a paper to the Olympic Council Committee, the file would be saved as

Olympic Council Apollo.PDF

Position papers must be submitted online via uci-mun.com/position-paper. Position papers sent to the Secretary-General account will not be reviewed. Delegates submitting position papers should receive email confirmation that their position paper was received through the form.