

Position Paper 101

What is a Position Paper?

A Position Paper is a document that outlines a country's stance on a topic. You must submit it to your dias before any hotel or day conference if you would like to be considered for an award. Some advanced committees (ex. UNSC) require you to submit a position paper. Position paper is the most basic MUN writing you'll write in your MUN career. Even though writing them may feel tedious, it will help you build a solid foundation to work with during committee sessions.

As a representatives of a country, the position paper must be written in the third person (except for Diplomatic Cable). For example: instead of writing "I believe..." you must write "the country of (country name) believes..."

Types of Position Papers

Regular Position Paper

Format:

- 1 page per topic
- Bibliography or Work Cited
- Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced
- Top Left Hand Margin (in order of written below)
 - Name of the Committee
 - Name of your country (or position)
 - Name of delegate (Your name)
 - Name of the topic
 - Own name
- 1st Paragraph
- 2nd Paragraph
- 3rd Paragraph
- 4th Paragraph

Diplomatic Cable

A Diplomatic Cable is a confidential, private document discussing a country's strategic interests for a particular topic. This represents the nation's private persona. A good Diplomatic Cable presents a thorough understanding of your nation's internal motives and present it as it is. Diplomatic Cables are not accessible by other delegates.

Format:

- 1 page per topic
- Additional Bibliography or Work Cited at the end
- Addressed to a foreign minister from a head of government (ex. When delegating as the UK, Prime Minister of UK addresses the Foreign Secretary)
- Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced



Press Release

A Press Release is intended to be a public statement, portraying a nation's public persona and including its political rhetoric and posturing. A good press release will attempt to present your country's position on controversial topics while minimizing criticism and garnering support.

Format:

- 1 page per topic
- Additional Bibliography or Work Cited at the end
- Addressed to any news corporation local to the delegate's country position or an international news corporation
- Article title is not necessary
- Times New Roman, 12-point font, single-spaced



Regular Position Paper

- Source: CAHSMUN 2017

The Writing:

As representatives of a country, the position paper must be written in the *third person*. For example: instead of writing “I believe...” you must write “the country of (country name) believes...”

Follow these six steps to effectively write a strong position paper:

1. The name of the committee, the name of your country, the name of the topic, and your own name should always be at the top of your position paper document.
2. The first paragraph should broadly introduce the topic and **state areas of concern that your country believes to be of significance**.
3. The second paragraph is where you will expand on the concerns you have stated in the first paragraph. **You will give details on the concerns and explain why your country believes that the concern is significant. This paragraph should detail your country’s position on the topic.**
4. The third paragraph should state **previous actions your country has taken**. Additionally, the third paragraph should discuss other **possible solutions** and analyze pros and cons.
 - a. Depending on the amount of researching you did, you may want to create two different paragraphs: one for discussing your country’s actions and the other discussing the possible solutions.
5. The fourth (or fifth) paragraph is the conclusion. Sum up everything you have written in your position paper.

The steps have been colour-coded to match the example position paper below. Please note that the topic and data are fictional.

When you finished writing a position paper on both topics, email your paper to your committee dais. As your subject header, indicate that the email contains a position paper and indicate the country that you represent, for example: “China’s Position Paper”.



United Nations Security Council
Country: United Kingdom
Delegate: Mark Kim
Topic A: The Resurgence of Colonization

The recent resurgence of colonization has become a threat to world peace. European countries have begun to infringe the national sovereignty of other countries through military occupation. The world is at risk of plunging back to the primitive 18th century. **Specifically, the United Kingdom is concerned with the possible revolts that can occur through colonization.**

Past acts of colonization have led to molestation and anarchy. The United Kingdom, for example, has felt the detriments of colonization. **English colonizers were often unable to uphold the value of human rights. As a result, individuals who lived in colonies were abused and treated without dignity. The continuous abuse often led to violent revolts, which have caused enormous damage to both the rioters and colonizers. The United Kingdom believes that colonization will lead to the violation human rights, which cannot be tolerated.**

Currently, the United Kingdom **has publicly condemned colonizing nations**. In a speech to the General Assembly, the UK denounced the actions of colonizers and advocated the UK's support for victimized nations. Care packages have been sent to colonized nations in order to support the civilians. The UK has also taken direct actions against colonizers by **ending official ties with them**. Moreover, the UK has threatened the colonizers with the possibility of sanctions. The UK's actions have sent clear messages that the nation will not tolerate colonizers.

The United Kingdom proposes two possible solutions that the UNSC can execute. **The first possible solution is to send peacekeepers to colonized nations**. Peacekeepers will ensure that no human rights are violated by the colonizers. Furthermore, the peacekeepers will be able to engage in combat with colonizers if the colonizers conduct military attacks. **The second possible solution is to recommend the expulsion of colonizing nations**. There are legitimate reasons that can substantiate the recommendation. The UNSC can recognize the violation of national sovereignty and the infringement of human rights. The UK believes that these two possible solutions can hinder the progress of colonizers.

In conclusion, the United Kingdom has a firm stance against the prospect of colonization. The UK has openly condemned colonizers and has also taken direct action against them. The UK is convinced that sending peacekeepers and expelling colonizing nations will benefit the global community.



Diplomatic Cable

- Source: CAIMUN
- Committee: FIFA

Office of the Prime Minister

Delegation of England

Dear Foreign Secretary:

It has come to my attention that you will be attending the FIFA Congress meeting held in Vancouver from May 16-18, where you will be discussing human rights violations in host nations, as well as corruption and legislative interference. I see this as an excellent opportunity to secure the hosting rights and the economic benefits that go with them to the 2018 FIFA World Cup and gain repute as a leader of FIFA's crusade against human rights violations and corruption. Should we achieve this, England will no doubt become one of the most important and well-respected nations in the footballing community.

When the Host Nations of the 2018 and 2022 FIFA World Cups were announced, the English FA and the English people expressed their dismay and surprise to me when our bid was passed over in favor of Russia's bid. However, since one of the topics to be discussed at the FIFA Congress meeting is the human rights violations in such host nations, we have been presented a unique opportunity to regain these hosting rights. As your Prime Minister, I implore you to take such an opportunity by arguing that human rights violations committed by the Russian Government constitute that Russia is an unfit host and should be stripped of their right to host. Logically, you must also strip Qatar of their right to host the 2022 World Cup, as their human rights violations are very serious and allowing them to keep their hosting rights sends the wrong message altogether of what England believes is right.

Once you have made it obvious that neither Russia nor Qatar is fit to host, proceed to argue that since England had made a valid bid, they should be considered to host if Russia cannot. Also, make it abundantly clear that since the World Cup in 2018 is fast approaching, it would be rash to award the hosting rights to a country that does not possess adequate infrastructure to host. England does however have such infrastructure, as the Barclays Premier League has possibly the world's best venues, and we have very good transportation systems as well. As for the 2022 World Cup, I encourage you to support the claim of either Australia or the United States of America, as they are most likely to be successful, and are closely related to us. However do bear in mind that Australia's bid has been marred by accusations of bribery, and supporting them could prove problematic to our reputation.

As for the second topic, I am afraid there are fewer opportunities for England to gain. However, you should use this as an opportunity to better England's reputation as an important part of FIFA's fight against corruption. Also, use this as an opportunity to take some measure of action against corruption, as while the influence of organized crime extends itself, we all stand to lose.

Should you take these opportunities that are presented to you, England shall reap the benefits, in hosting the 2018 World Cup, and in becoming further established as one of FIFA's most valuable and important leading members in all its missions.

David Cameron,
Prime Minister of the United Kingdom, First Lord of the Treasury, and Minister for Civil Service



Press Release

- Source: CAIMUN
- Topic: FIFA

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE:

London, England – Sunday, April 20th, 2014 – According to the Delegate of England Human Rights Violations In FIFA World Cup Host Nations Intolerable

The FIFA World Cup Host Nation is selected in order to provide the ideal hosting conditions for the world's most prestigious tournament; ideal conditions for spectators, players, and the affected population alike. The delegate of England believes that in hosting the World Cup in countries guilty of committing violations of basic human rights, including the Russian Federation and the State of Qatar, the FIFA Congress fails not only to provide ideal conditions, but fails to provide even adequate or humane conditions. England believes that nations, such as Russia and Qatar, that are unfit to host the World Cup should be stripped immediately of their rights to host the World Cup and be reprimanded with the possibility of appropriate sanctions to be put in place as consequences for their violations.

Since the State of Qatar won the bid to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup in 2010, during the construction of venues for the tournament, over 400 Nepalese migrant workers have died. They have been subjected to unsanitary conditions, extreme temperatures, and unsafe working conditions. According to the International Trades Union Congress, the death toll of workers in Qatar is on course to arrive at 4,000 people before the tournament is set to begin in 2022. England believes this is a blatant and gruesome violation of worker's rights, in accordance with the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, which stated "Everyone has the right to work, to free choice of employment, *to just and favorable conditions of work* and to protection against unemployment." With this breach of basic human rights, England believes that Qatar should be stripped of its right to host the 2022 FIFA World Cup, as the Qatari government's actions have proven categorically, that Qatar is totally unfit to host the FIFA World Cup.

The right of the Russian Federation to host the 2018 FIFA World Cup should also be revisited and revoked, as the number of violent crimes and the level of discrimination rise in Russia. In the recent past, one principal mission of FIFA has been to promote respect and eradicate racism in the sport. However, the rights to host the World Cup have been granted to a country with an extremely high regularity of racist abuse and racist actions. The director of football's anti-racism campaign "Kick It Out" has in fact stated that racism "is still the norm" at football matches in Russia. England is appalled by the fact that the World Cup could be awarded to a country whose citizen's actions directly oppose those of FIFA.

With the hosting rights of both of these countries in need of revocation, England believes more suitable hosts for these two tournaments would include England in 2018, and Australia or the United States in 2022. All of these countries did introduce bids for the tournaments, and therefore have some rightful claim to the hosting rights. Should the offending countries be replaced, England believes FIFA will have succeeded in achieving justice for the players, spectators and all involved or wronged initially.

