

Position Paper - Delegates' Guidelines

For over 65 years, Model United Nations has been used to educate generations of students about global issues and to provide them with a broad understanding of international relations. Even before there was Model UN, there was Model League of Nations. Political simulations as an educational tool are valuable in helping students to develop research skills, as well as develop empathy for another country and their perspectives.

Past methods in the development of MUN conferences have become obsolete. MUN conferences today tend to focus on “consensus-building,” resolution writing, and compromise. While these are important values, consensus-building overkill has given rise to unrealistic MUN simulations as delegates are willing to break ranks with their country's real position to cooperate with unlikely allies. The awards criteria for most conferences makes consensus building a major component in their awards policy. Furthermore, the same conferences do not respect the importance of accuracy and realism of policy by delegates. In doing so, conferences promote an ideological position, portraying international organizations as unrealistically effective, and that national interests are unimportant.

MIMUN aims to create Model UN conferences that reflect the realities of international relations. This involves consistently questioning the conventional practices within Model UN and integrating these values into the preparation expectations for delegates. MIMUN believes that any expectation for delegates to invest full weeks in extensive research, to compile lengthy documents on a country's or Minister's position, is not only superfluous but also counterproductive, especially considering how Artificial Intelligence can now aid in doing previously days of work in a matter of minutes.

Therefore, we want you to be incisive, concise, and critical with your research, and we have compiled these guidelines to help you do so. **Please bear in mind that our deadlines for submission are on February 27th through the following link:**

<https://forms.gle/nzMyQW1RbSEkvTqx6>

All documents must be titled in the following formats:

- A) Committees: **Country_Committee_White/Black**
- B) Cabinets: **Role_Country_MA/PM**
- C) Press: **Realname_Alias**

Committees

White position paper

In short, a White position paper summarizes your country's public policy stances on the agenda topics to the rest of the committee. They highlight key issues, as well as domestic and international priorities, and serve as a useful orientation tool to form blocs.

This edition, we are sharing the following guiding questions for your White position paper. You can answer them either in a narrative-style, or with a hybrid approach including question-answer fragments. Make sure to **include relevant sources** where necessary (feel free to use any format for your references, as long as they're clear). There is no limit extension, although we favor shorter deliveries (e.g., *ideally* aim for 1-2 pages per topic; although this is not a strict extension requirement).

Guiding questions, to be answered for each topic:

- What are the main definitions and/or conceptual building blocks of the topic? (i.e., what are the basic concepts needed to be grasped to have a thoughtful dialogue on the topic?)
- How is your country affected socially and economically by this issue?
 - Note: Most countries will have a direct or indirect connection to your topics. Make sure to be thorough in your research. However, if you find there is no strong connection between your country and the topic, you can explore "similar" topics that are relevant to your country
- Does the current administration (government) have any specific stances on the issue? Does it support and/or oppose specific aspects of the topic?
- Are there any relevant historical processes that explain your country's current position on the topic?
- What are the key international frameworks, agreements, or treaties related to the topic? Is your country a part of them / a signatory?
- What are some proposed solutions that align with your position? What would be needed to implement them?
- What are your *public-facing* goals you want to achieve at the upcoming meeting?

Please note that White position papers will be shared online and will be viewable by fellow committee members. We advise you to review other position papers to plan your committee strategy, especially the ones from allies and opposing blocs.

Black position paper

Black position papers are internal documents used to outline the reasoning behind the nation's official policy, the government's internal strategies to achieve these goals and any "hidden agenda" pursued by the member state. They are useful to define the stance and goals a delegation will seek so that all representatives of that country present a uniform position. It is also particularly useful to outline strategies and policy options for your Home Government to explore.

There are three main questions to be answered in a Black Paper:

- What would an "ideal" outcome be for your delegation?

- What changes are “acceptable” for your government in the subject matter? What changes would not be acceptable?
- What “bargaining chips” or strategies can you use to gain traction during debate and support your objectives?
- If any, are there any particular alliances you should be seeking during debate?

If your country has a nuanced political position, or you plan on engaging the committee in a unique way, it is useful to include it in your black position paper.

Cabinets

Ministerial agenda

This document provides a scope of the minister’s and the ministry’s positions. Outline how you want to shift your Ministry and your Government using the following questions:

- What is the professional background of the minister? Is the minister a party member?
- What institution is that person in charge of? What are the responsibilities of the ministry and the minister?
- What are the main objectives within this purview?
- According to the minister, what should be the priorities of the government? Why? What are the internal and external threats to achieve these policy goals?
- What should the priorities of the government be regarding foreign policy? Are there any imminent threats?
- Who would the minister consider as an enemy of the state?

You can answer these questions either in a narrative-style, or with a hybrid approach including question-answer fragments. **Make sure to include relevant sources** where necessary (feel free to use any format for your references, as long as they’re clear). There is no limit extension, although we favor shorter deliveries (e.g., *ideally* aim for 1-2 pages per topic; although this is not a strict extension requirement).

Please note that Ministerial Agendas will be shared online and will be viewable by fellow cabinet members. We advise you to review other position papers to plan your strategy.

Personal memorandum

A personal memorandum depicts the ambitions, intentions, and personal plans of ministers and the government. This is a detailed plan of any personal interests you would like to pursue and the direction toward which your cabinet should be steered. Keep in mind that you are representing an individual, research that character, and embody the same mindset they bring in real life.

Keep in mind that this is an optional document, and the proposals you bring up could be taken into account by your Home Government.

Personal memorandums have a free format, you can write them in narrative form; as bullets; as a list, or whichever way you feel is better to present confidential plans to your Home Government.

Press delegates

Your role as a member of the International Press Delegation is to be creative, versatile, and a voracious researcher. The purpose of your article is to implement these three qualities and write about any topic that you find to be relevant in your context (i.e. present-day or historical). Take advantage of this opportunity to exploit your potential as a reporter.

The following guidelines give you a general scope of things to keep in mind while writing your article:

1. Topic Selection:
 - Focus on current international issues, conflicts, diplomatic relations, global health, environmental concerns, or significant political events.
 - Topics should be relevant, timely, and have a clear international or global significance.
2. Research and Sources:
 - Encourage thorough research using credible sources such as reputable news agencies, official statements, and verified data.
 - Emphasize the importance of cross-referencing multiple sources to ensure accuracy and objectivity.
3. Article Structure:
 - Articles should have a clear introduction, body, and conclusion.
 - The introduction should provide context, the body should present facts and various perspectives, and the conclusion should summarize the key points or propose future considerations.
4. Ethical Reporting:
 - Uphold journalistic integrity by avoiding bias and ensuring that reporting is fair and balanced.
 - Respect privacy and avoid sensationalism.
5. Use of AI in Article Writing:
 - AI can be used as a tool for preliminary research, data analysis, and language translation.
 - Direct content creation by AI (such as writing full articles) should be limited or avoided. The focus should be on original writing by the delegates.
 - Any use of AI-generated content must be clearly disclosed.
 - Emphasize critical thinking and human analysis over AI-generated insights.
6. Fact-Checking and Editing:
 - Articles should be fact-checked rigorously before submission.
 - Encourage peer review or mentor review for constructive feedback.
7. Citation and Attribution:
 - Properly cite all sources and references.
 - Plagiarism in any form is strictly prohibited.
8. Adherence to MUN Themes and Objectives:
 - Articles should reflect the themes and objectives of the MUN conference.
 - Encourage connecting global issues to the MUN agenda items being discussed.
9. Additional Tips:
 - Encourage creativity in presentation and writing style, while maintaining journalistic standards.
 - Promote the understanding of different cultures and perspectives, reflecting the international nature of the MUN.

Please reach out to our staff if you have any questions as you navigate through these guidelines and develop your documents.

See you next March!

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