

Intro: Provide an overview of the topic as you see it, not as it is presented in the background guide. Generally, this should be seen as making a broad topic specific. If you are DR Congo in Political, worry less about cocoa and talk about DRC commodities which fall outside the control of government due to the interference of outside states, for instance. If you are Iraq discussing the Korean peninsula, focus in on a topic area in Korea which is relevant to you, like building legitimacy in transitional governments or techniques for bringing together different cultures.

Middle Part One: Provide not necessarily answers to the above, but questions which need to be addressed in order to solve the focus area. These should be specific and detailed, not broad and empty:

Bad Example: What should we do about it? How can we bring cultures together?

Better Example: How can schools adjust curriculum to better teach understanding? What laws promote civil discussion and freedom of speech without promoting hate speech?

Treat these as focus questions, as questions which you think the committee should argue. Back them up where needed with explanations and evidence.

Middle Part Two: Set up criteria for what good resolutions will cover. Discuss what Iraq needs to see in a committee's resolution, what will satisfy it, or what should not be addressed. Be as specific as you can be. You may wish to consider: subtopics and sub-issues of the main focus you established above, funding and enforcement, effective monitoring, evaluation processes, belief statements in pre-operatives, etc.

Vague Criteria: A good resolution will consider funding of schools.

Better Criteria: A good resolution will find the means to fund new school curriculum without cost to the nation's economy or increasing the nation's debt.

Close: Close with an optimistic and constructive note which promises how you will address more details around the issue at the conference, what you look forward to accomplishing, and how we will achieve it.

Writing Position Papers

Each delegation by committee is responsible for writing a 2 page typed (double-spaced) position paper for *each* of your committee topics. We recommend you write drafts early to give to Mr. Snyder, Mr. Chisnell and/or your head delegate for comments. Then, you can have them ready to send before the conference. Come on, they're easier than you think!

Goal: To write a paper that is an informed, convincing opinion of the topic from your country's point of view.

Research: As you read, decide where your country stands on the issue. Keep in mind its economics, politics, friends and enemies, what it has to gain or lose, etc. *Write down* all of the reasons you can think of for/against different positions. Very rarely will someone adopt an extreme, no-compromise position. Consider where you will compromise if you need to and where you will not.

Tone: Politicians tend to speak with certain styles when they write: grief, enthusiasm, caution, concern, and sometimes anger. However, it is always calculated. Choose a particular tone when choosing your words.

Guidelines: Use the questions at the end of your background papers for ideas on questions you might need to answer. If you wrote a focus paper, develop that with details/examples, and solutions. Also, look carefully at the committee mission statements at the end of each topic section.

Format: At the top of the page, type:

(Date)

SUBMITTED TO: (Your committee)

FROM: (Your country)

SUBJECT: (Topic)

Where to Start:

Write like you are writing a speech. What are the major things that concern you about the issue? What is the background of your country that is important to this topic? (What do you wish to reveal to others and what don't you want to reveal?) Based on all this, what is your position? (Think of the position of your country as a *thesis*, but the thesis may appear near the end of the paper only)

Sample:

December 16, 1995

SUBMITTED TO: The Security Council of the United Nations

FROM: The Russian Federation

SUBJECT: The Conflict in Bosnia

It is with the deepest concern that reports of casualties and war-time atrocities continue to emerge from a country whose leaders have signed the Dayton Peace Treaty. As recently as December 10, 1995, the Reuters News Agency reported "wholesale burning of villages and more vows for destruction of any neighborhood threatened by occupation." Sadly, and as has been previously warned by ambassadors of the Russian Federation, most of the violence continues from the Croatian forces.

NATO, in a reckless move to usurp the role of the United Nations in its worthy peacekeeping efforts and led by the United States, is ill-prepared to stop the violence. In particular, the replacement of valuable French officers of the UN in Sarajevo has upset the uneasy stability that community found prior to the Dayton Accord. This is why, in late October, the Russian Federation found it necessary to suggest placing Russian troops along the Serbian border in an effort to prevent the spread of violence against the internationally recognized but persecuted Serbian government.

. . . .

For all of these reasons, the Russian Federation wishes again to stress the need for firm support of the Serbian government in its efforts to consolidate a single nation. While the Russian Federation will reluctantly support the Dayton Treaty as it stands, it notes with unease that the current position of NATO forces makes the extension of Balkan violence into other regions more likely. It therefore recommends the independent placement of

Russian forces along the province of Slavonia, such forces to act in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 50/145. It further recommends that NATO formally acknowledge the Serbian government and rescind the Dayton compromise of the role of a rotating minister for leadership of that nation.

It is with the greatest concern and force that the Russian Federation makes its views known to the Security Council and warns the Bosnian and Serbian peoples along with all of the involved NATO and UN members that it will act decisively to prevent the spread of the Balkan war.

Position Papers!



There are ***three*** stages to the position paper writing.

- 1) Each delegation in each committee will write a ***Focus Paper*** on each topic, basically a list of key questions and issues it wants the committee to focus on for the debate. ***These will be due***
- 2) Each delegation in each committee will write a ***Position Paper*** of 2 typed pages for each topic. ***These will be due***
- 3) Each delegation will write one overall delegation paper, a philosophy statement from the country outlining its overall approach to the conference. ***This will be due***

Delegation Heads are responsible for seeing these get done with quality! We are judged on our debate, our writing, and our overall quality as a team.
==If you don't pull your weight, you hurt all of us!==

Focus Papers

Keep the audience in mind. These will be read by committee chairs and other delegations! Here is your chance to set up the criteria for the debate and impress the others. Answer these in outline form, perhaps. Begin here:

- 1) As far as your country is concerned, what are the main issues for this topic and why?
- 2) How are these issues complicated? Why won't "simple solutions" work?
- 3) What will you want to see the committee address in debate to solve these issues?
- 4) What direction will you be leaning and why?
- 5) What are you absolutely opposed to?

You may not be ready to answer questions 4 and 5, but if you are, add this info. You will use this outline to write the larger position paper next!

As you write and think, consider the motivations for your country and the key arguments it will make—these will help us with the delegation paper!

Sample Focus Paper

FROM: The Russian Federation

SUBJECT: The Bosnian Conflict, 1995

Russia, overall, will seek peace and diplomatic solutions to the crisis in Bosnia. However, the solutions to the conflict may prove more damaging than the conflict itself. Russia sees several key issues that it hopes to see addressed in committee:

- How will the rights of all sides in the conflict be protected? In particular, how will the political rights and sovereignty of the Serbian government be respected?
- How is NATO better equipped to settle the conflict than the United Nations? Has NATO undermined the legitimacy of the United Nations? More, won't NATO polarize the conflict since it will more clearly side against the Serbs?
- How far will NATO go to "keep the peace"? Can we all agree to define an absolute limit to its intervention?

Once these issues are solved, the Russian Federation will be more than willing to aid in the specific concerns of the Bosnian and Croatian people. However, unless we can agree on the above issues, we hold little hope for peace in the region. The role of NATO in Eastern Europe is of great concern to us.

- - - - -

The Delegation Paper



Delegation Heads should organize a block of time (four or more hours!) for the entire delegation to write this paper. It's up to the delegations to work together closely on this. Advisors will help!

- 1) Everyone read everyone else's Position Papers and identify key issues, policies, and philosophies from those paper.
- 2) Make a list of these philosophies on large butcher paper or a blackboard for all to see.
- 3) Outline a paper from these.
 - Begin with an Introduction that places the country in the world at large. What is happening today and what is the country's role? What does it have to contribute? Where does it see peril?
 - Develop that global role with middle sections that focus on issues in one of two ways:
 - ❖ By general area of policy (i.e. human rights, int'l law, peacekeeping, etc.) or
 - ❖ By areas of culture/philosophy/beliefs (i.e. all are equal before God, sincerity is key, sovereignty has limits, etc.)
 - Try to write body sections not as arguments for particular committee topics, but as a way your country will behave at the conference. In each section, combine committee topics as examples that reveal your policy or philosophy.
 - Word everything carefully.
 - Conclude with either hopes your country has for the future or with warnings of what may come. . . .

The final draft, double-space typed, should be 3-6 pages, longer for large conferences like GLIMUN, etc.