**Position Papers**

**Model OAS Preparation**

The MOAS recommends that each delegation submit a position paper—an essay detailing your country's policies on the topics being discussed in your committee. Writing a position paper will help you organize your ideas so that you can share your country's position with the rest of the committee. This must include your findings, country position and highlights on your topic. The position paper will serve as the basis for your opening speech or General Statement. After conducting extensive research, it will be easy to write a position paper (no longer than 2 pages).

Submitting your position paper one month before the Model will help the MOAS Coordination team get a feel for the direction debate will take. Writing this paper may help you organize your research and prepare your speeches.

**Guidelines to write a position paper:**

Position papers are usually no longer than 2 pages in length. Your position paper should include a brief introduction followed by a comprehensive breakdown of your country's position on the topics that are being discussed by the committee. A good position paper will not only provide facts but also make proposals for resolutions.

**Make sure that your position paper includes**:

* A brief introduction to your country and its history concerning the topic and committee;
* How the issue affects your country;
* Your country's policies with respect to the issue and your country's justification for these policies;
* Quotes from your country's leaders about the issue;
* Statistics to back up your country's position on the issue;
* Actions taken by your government with regard to the issue;
* Conventions and resolutions that your country has signed or ratified;
* OAS actions that your country supported or opposed;
* What your country believes should be done to address the issue;
* What your country would like to accomplish in the committee's resolution; and
* How the positions of other countries affect your country's position.

**Position Paper Tips**

Keep it simple. To communicate strongly and effectively, avoid flowery wording and stick to uncomplicated language and sentence structure.

Get organized. Give each separate idea or proposal its own paragraph. Make sure each paragraph starts with a topic sentence.

Cite your sources. Use footnotes or endnotes to show where you found your facts and statistics. If you are unfamiliar with bibliographic form, look up the Modern Language Association (MLA) guidelines at your school's library.

Read and reread. Leave time to edit your position paper. Ask yourself if the organization of the paper makes sense and double-check your spelling and grammar.

A good position paper makes a great opening speech. During debate, a good position paper will also help you to stick to your country's policies.

For speechmaking, create a bulleted list of your proposals along with your most important facts and statistics so that you will not lose time looking for them during debate.