

## Position Paper Guidelines

**General Rule:** CITE! CITE! CITE! Always cite your sources, they will check! Use APA parenthetical style, followed up with a full length listing in Part F.

**PART A- Essential Question:** *How do you define the topic? What is the topic about in general terms?*

- Define terms using vital STATISTICS and EXPERT testimonies.
- What is going on?-Who is in conflict in who?-What is affecting who?
- What is the history of the topic? (Priority is past 20 years, unless history prior to 20 years ago is essential, focus on key events)
- What is the current situation?
- Key players?
- Social, Political, Economic, Religious, Moral Implications?

**PART B- Essential question:** *What has the UN done in the last 20 years regarding the topic?*

- What resolutions, treaties, or conventions have been passed, signed or held in terms of the topic?
- Have there been any UN press releases or other official statements released concerning the issue?
- What committees/ sub committees are involved in this topic? - What are the jurisdictional boundaries of these committees?
- Know the economics (Part A or Part B) - Where does the money come from? Who benefits? What are the costs?
- NGOs- pertinent to the topic - Who are they? What do they do?
- News reports concerning the UN and the topic at hand
- What countries play large parts in the issue?

**PART C- Essential Question:** *What is your country's policy?*

- What is your country's policy or attitude towards the topic?
- What actions has your country taken in regard to the topic?
- Any statements? What statements were made and by who?
- If you're having trouble finding statements or any other notions of policy from your country, find out who your country is allied with (think of the P5) or look into your country's history to try and give shape to your policy.
- Treaties signed, Resolutions voted for, and conventions attended are stuff to look for.

**PART D- Essential Question:** *What viable solutions are there to the topic?*

- Do not try to solve the problem completely, focus on managing the problem.
- What can you do, or what existing solutions/resolutions can you add on to?
- You are encouraged to create new solutions that have never been implemented, but it must be reasonable, practical, doable, and within your country's policy.
- Limit your solutions to what your country wants and what it and the international community can do.
- DO NOT CREATE MORE COMMITTEES TO SOLVE THE TOPIC!

**PART E- Essential Question: *What do I not know or understand?***

- List 8-10 Questions regarding the topic that you do not know how to answer.

**PART F- Essential Question: *Where did you find your information?***

- List your references, APA style (consult the forms that Mangram handed out or look at pages 174-189 in Montas's Pocket Handbook)
- Use no numbers, use the full citations, and make it alphabetical.
- VETERAN TIP: MPH has an Easy Bib Pro account that you can use to make APA style bibliographies, since the free version only has MLA style.