



BULLSMUN II

Delegate Resources

Position Papers

Given the short timeline between our registration deadlines and the actual date of BULLSMUN II, we have decided to make position papers **optional** for awards consideration. Position papers are not required for any of the awards that factor into delegation awards, including Best Delegate, Outstanding Delegate, Honorable Mention, and Verbal Commendation. However, we encourage delegates to still draft an informal position paper before the conference, as the process of writing a paper helps students cover all the parts of the topic needed to be well-informed in committee. Delegates are still welcome to submit position papers if they wish. We will provide feedback on all submitted position papers as well as announce a Best Position Paper award for each committee. Should you choose to write a position paper, we recommend following the below guide on format and content. The position paper guide has been crafted with a traditional General Assembly committee in mind, but it is equally as applicable to committees where delegates will be representing people instead of countries.

Recommended Format

Committee:

Topic:

Country:

School

1. **History of the topic:** The first section of your papers should discuss the background of the topic. This section should *not* merely be a re-statement of your background guide. Instead, it should elaborate on the issue *as your country* sees it. According to your nation, what are the fundamental issues at hand? What are the major problems that need to be discussed? Why have these problems arisen?

2. **History of your country/person's position on the topic:** The next section should explain your specific history with the topic, explaining and assessing the various solutions that your country has explored. What actions has your country taken to address this problem? How has your country voted on previous UN resolutions on this topic? What general positions have you taken in the past? Which actions have been successful for your nation, and in what areas is further improvement needed? What similar situations has your country had to deal with? Think of a position paper as essentially an outline for your ideas and goals as a country. Therefore, you should focus your paper on the goals that your nation is willing and prepared to pursue throughout the conference.
3. **Proposed solutions to the topic:** The final portion of your paper should discuss the various solutions that your nation would like the UN to consider. How do you feel the UN should address this issue? What specific actions would you like to see taken? What solutions would you support in a resolution? What remedies does your country oppose? Furthermore, how will your nation's specific stance on this issue match up with other countries' positions? Make sure to reference the "Questions to Consider" section of your background guide in this section of your paper.

Tips for Writing a Position Paper

- Do not write them until you are nearly, if not totally, done researching. Before you draft a position paper, outline your facts and ideas so that the paper flows logically.
- Think of a position paper as essentially an outline for your ideas and goals as a country. Therefore, the last section of the paper does not need to contain goals that you could realistically achieve after negotiations and compromise, but they should be goals that your nation is willing and prepared to pursue.
- Remember, by the time you have finished the position paper, you should be ready to defend and explain all your ideas in committee. Your ideas should reflect your nation's position, so only start researching or creating possible

solutions once you have fully researched your nation's position on the issue. The solutions you propose should be as original as possible. Solutions already enacted in previous documents or initiatives should not be included unless there is a valid reason to repeat them.

- To give credit to your position and solutions, make sure to give sufficient specific evidence. Include dates, historical background, titles, names, and any other relevant details.
- When explaining ideas, strike a balance between being concise and thorough. Include specifics in your plans but make sure your descriptions of those specifics are brief and easily understood.
- For more tips, please refer to Best Delegate's [guide to writing a winning position paper](#)

Fundamentals of Model UN

[Parliamentary Procedure Guide](#)

In Model United Nations (MUN), parliamentary procedure refers to the formal rules and guidelines that govern how debates and discussions are conducted. It helps ensure that the conference runs smoothly and that all delegates have an opportunity to participate in an orderly manner. To inform or just remind delegates of parliamentary procedure rules, we have linked a guide to important motions and potions that every delegate should know in committee.

[Resolution Paper Guide](#)

We recommend that all delegates in the General Assembly and Specialized committees review the linked guide to writing an effective resolution paper. Delegates in most of our GA/Specialized committees (Tampa City Council being the exception) will spend the majority of their time working with their bloc to craft a resolution paper that they will present and hopefully get passed by the end of committee. Therefore, it is important that

all committee members understand the proper format and content required of resolutions.

Crisis Elements

Crisis committees are dynamic simulations that force delegates to respond to problems as they happen. Delegates may also create problems of their own, as they seek to advance their character's standing in committee. The two main components of crisis committees are **public directives**, which are used by delegates to publicly respond to **crisis updates**, and **crisis notes**, which are used to privately further a delegate's **crisis arc** and can often lead to **crisis updates**. Below, we have defined each of the bolded terms, provided strategies for how to effectively craft these deliverables, and occasionally linked examples of what these should look like.

As a note for clarity, *backroom* in crisis refers to the crisis director and staffers responsible for reading and responding to crisis notes. *Frontroom* in crisis, on the other hand, refers to your chairs in committee. The frontroom is responsible for moderating debate and ensuring public directives get presented and passed in a timely manner.

Crisis Updates:

Crisis updates are the driving force behind any crisis committee. They will also be a key part of our Tampa City Council specialized committee and may also pop up sparingly in ASEAN to drive debate forward. Crisis updates are essentially announcements of recent developments that the committee needs to respond to through public directives. At BULLSMUN, our crisis directors will seek to deliver at least one crisis update every 30 minutes to keep our committees moving at a fast pace. Content in crisis updates may either be the brainchild of your crisis directors or may be the result of actions that delegates take in their crisis notes. In general, delegates should expect crisis updates towards the beginning of the committee to be mostly backroom-engineered, as your crisis directors attempt to push debate forward. Towards the end, however, crisis updates will

mostly reflect the actions that delegates have taken in their crisis arcs. This is because delegates will be able to make more of an impact on committee proceedings as they build up resources and power over the course of the committee. As an example of what crisis updates may look like in committee, we have linked our [presentation](#) of crisis updates from our United Nations Security Council committee last year. BULLSMUN crisis updates often come in the form of skits instead of just presentations, but skits unfortunately cannot be hyperlinked just yet.

Public Directives:

Public directives are documents that delegates craft to respond to crisis updates. At BULLSMUN, we will push for our crisis delegates to submit and hopefully pass at least one public directive in response to each crisis update they receive. Multiple public directives can pass per cycle, provided that they all receive a majority of the committee vote. In terms of format, public directives are much more succinct than General Assembly resolutions. Directives take the form of a numbered list, with each point in the list stating an action the committee will be taking. To view example public directives, feel free to take a look at this [document](#)! In terms of public directive strategies, the Golden Rule is to begin working on a public directive as soon as you receive a crisis update. Use notes to collaborate on directives during moderated caucuses, and then finish up and merge directives during brief unmoderated caucuses. Additionally, get creative with how you name your public directives! Creative names not only grab other delegates' attention but also set you up for some fun speeches as you pitch your public directive during a round robin or moderated caucus.

Crisis Notes:

Crisis notes are directives drafted alone and discretely by individual delegates and submitted to the backroom for authorization. Each crisis note is meant to further your standing in committee, whether by building up resources or expanding your power. As suggested by MUNUC in their guide to [Writing Crisis Notes](#), we recommend making sure each note includes a Request, the Resources you will use to achieve the request, and the

Reasoning for the request. In terms of format, we recommend that delegates list each course of action as a numerical or bullet point. The two example crisis notes linked in this [article](#) are concise and easy to follow, and that is partly because of the format. Finally, do not try to achieve too much in one crisis note – each note you write is meant to be a step towards your overall end goal. We will not allow you to take over the entire United States in one note – that will have to be a progressive plan achieved over several notes throughout the committee. For more on how to execute a plan over multiple crisis notes, see our below section on crisis arcs!

BULLSMUN will follow the double notepad system when it comes to submitting crisis notes. Delegates will receive two notepads at the beginning of committee, but will only submit one notepad to the backroom at a time. While waiting on a response to a note on Notepad A, delegates should use their time in committee to craft a crisis note on Notepad B. Whenever crisis staffers return one notepad to delegates with a response to their crisis note, they will immediately pick up their other notepad, which by that point should have a complete crisis note ready to be delivered to the backroom. The idea is that both a delegate's notepads are rarely in the same room together. If one notepad is in the backroom, the other is in the front room, being used to draft public directives, write crisis notes, and send messages to other delegates.

Crisis Arc:

If each crisis note you write is a chapter, then crisis arcs represent your full novel by the end of the committee. Crisis arcs are essentially your plan for how your character will progress from their standing at the beginning of committee to their end goal. End goals can range from becoming President of the United States to establishing a lucrative business empire to cementing yourself as leader of the mafia. While having a clear cut end goal is important, you will not always achieve your end goal in crisis committees and that is OK! The best crisis arcs are the ones that make a substantial impact on the storyline of committee. Delegates succeed by consistently creating problems that the committee has to respond to. If they are put on trial or fictionally imprisoned for their actions before they can reach their end goal, it is seen as a sign of achievement rather than failure. That said,

we still want to see motivation and reasoning behind each of your actions. Make sure to telegraph your end goal as early as possible, as this will allow us to keep both your storyline and our overall committee arcs on track.

In regards to how to craft crisis arcs even with the double notepad system, we recommend running two separate arcs on each notepad. For example, if you are a character in a U.S. Cabinet committee, one arc could be focused on establishing dominance at home in the U.S while the other is focused on activities abroad. Both arcs should attempt to significantly impact the committee and should lead to meaningful end goals. Oftentimes, you may converge arcs towards the end of the committee, using the resources established across both arcs to barrel towards the more realistic end goal. To start, however, we recommend having two arcs, as it creates more clarity for the backroom and allows you to continue making an impact on the committee even if one of your arcs gets nipped in the bud for some reason or the other.

To better understand how to come up with a crisis arc, we recommend referring to MUNUC's guide on [Creating a Crisis Arc](#). In terms of pacing your arc, we also suggest you take a look at MUNUC's [backroom overview](#). There is no one way to brainstorm or pace your arc, but strategies like the ones suggested by MUNUC make it easier to map out an effective backroom plan when you're struggling for ideas.