

HIST Position Paper Guidelines

Writing a well-researched and substantive Position Paper is the best way to prepare for any Model United Nations conference. Through the position paper your delegation will express its ideas and policies by defining your organization's perspective on the issues at hand. Moreover, it is the means by which you bring all of your research together in a logical and succinct form.

Berkeley Model UN has a great variety of committees. **The Conference uses a general outline for position papers, but the Historical Committee (HIST) will use a modified structure because of the specialized nature of the Committee.**

Overview

Researching and writing a Position Paper go hand-in-hand. While researching will give you an overwhelming amount of information, it is through the Position Paper that you will be able to narrow in on the mission you have set before yourself. In writing the Position Paper, you will be able to understand the complexity of the situations and issues, as seen from your organization's vantage point. To say it simply, you will be condensing the vast amounts of books, magazine articles, newspaper clippings, and websites you've collected down to just a few more comprehensible pages.

After breaking it down, your Position Paper should flow smoothly. In the end it should come to between **8-16 pages total**. What you should aim for however is quality not quantity. If you're struggling to reach 8 pages, please don't include your country's national anthem to get that last line stretched onto page 8. This is a sign that you need to go back to the previous section and do more research. Overall, your Position Paper should exhibit the following:

- Comprehensive understanding of the situation
- An organized and argumentative structure
- Original thinking that follows with the policy of the represented organization
- An attitude of seriousness to the issues in question

The Position Paper, ultimately, is your opportunity to develop a deep understanding of the issues presented in the committee, and thus will go a long way in preparing you for direct interaction and debate with other delegates.

Requirements

One position paper is due per delegation for the single topic. On each submission delegates should use only their committee, organization, and topic for identification purposes. **Personal and school names are not allowed for the purposes of blind grading.**

There are five required sections in the position paper, delegates have to identify each section they are working on clearly, and any prompts or questions they are responding to, where relevant. Please identify each section through Roman numerals (I, II, III, etc.) preceding the section name as seen below.

The five sections are:

1. Character Biography (30%)
2. General Political Philosophy (30%)
3. Views on German Nationalism (15%)
4. Views on Schleswig-Holstein (5%)
5. Questions to Consider (10%)

Character Biography (30%):

A biography of your character's life. It should include among other things, what their position in government was, what their accomplishments were, what their personal relationships were like in government (etc).

General Political Philosophy (30%):

Is your character a liberal or a conservative? What does that entail in the context of mid-19th century Germany? Do people have rights and if so what are they? What is the duty of the state and the military?

Views on German Nationalism (15%):

Is there a Germany? If so, who is German? Where is Germany?

View on Schleswig-Holstein (5%):

It may be difficult to find your character's specific views on this topic so if you can't just do your best considering their position on other topics.

Questions to Consider (10%):

Please answer the remaining questions to consider.

- Does it matter who is German or is Prussian power all that matters?
- What place do notions such as honor and respect have in politics?
- How should Prussia utilize and respond to changes brought on by Industrialization, in politics, warfare and the economy?

Grader's Discretion (10%):

Spelling, grammar, (etc.)

Submission Instructions:

- Submit to the JCC committee email, HIST@bmun.org.
- Title your email Submission_Committee_Character Name

Position Papers are due on **February 6th** to be considered for the *Best Position Paper Award*, and **February 13th** to be considered for *any committee award*. Late submissions will not be considered, and submissions will be graded on a rolling basis. It is advised that delegates submit their position paper when they are done instead of waiting till 11:59 PST the day of the deadline to get it in, to avoid technical difficulties.

Format:

- Please submit in .doc, .docx, or .pdf
- 1 inch margins on all sides
- Indicate in the header your committee, country, and topic – please do not include your name or school name
- Typed, 12 point Times New Roman Font, double-spaced
- 8 page minimum, 16 page maximum; not including the bibliography
- All citations should be done in the MLA format

Plagiarism and Citations:

All position papers will be extensively cross-referenced through various sources, both online and in-print. If there is any evidence of using the work of others without citations, the delegate(s) will not be eligible for an award. Any school that has multiple cases of plagiarism may be reconsidered for a School Delegation Award. It is the responsibility of the delegate and the advisor to ensure this does not happen.

Delegates must also remember to correctly cite sources, and papers without any cited sources will not be accepted. For more information on how to use in-text MLA citations, visit [Purdue OWL](#).

Questions

Any specific questions can be directed to HIST's Head Chair, Arjun Banerjee at abanerjee@bmun.org.