

Policy Statement Template

P = Paragraph C = Component

STEPS: Transfer your bullet-point notes from MUN Part 2 Issue Research and Part 3 Country-Issue Connection into prose (fluent sentences with transitions) using this template. Collect your [sources/links here](#). See more helpful info [below this template](#).

< INSERT ISSUE HERE (COUNTRY COMMITTEE) >

P1- Why does this issue exist? Include a definition of the issue. (causes)	
C1- Define the issue, main-parties, location (if not universal) and general timeframe. From <i>your country's perspective</i> , identify who is most affected by the topic and who has the most impact on the topic.	
C2- Identify at least three causes of the issue; analyze how the causes contribute to the issue and why the causes exist.	
C3- Describe current events indicating where your topic is going.	

P2- Why is this issue important? (effects) *Use statistics relevant to your country	
C1- Identify and explain at least three effects.	
C2- Analyze the significance of each effect, why the effect matters. (So what?)	

P3- How is this issue relevant to your country? (relevance)	
C1- Use a quote from country leaders to present your country's position. (If cannot find, use one from the UN and explain why your country supports the statement.)	

<p>C2- Clarify your country's position and explain why. In doing so, refer to your country's past actions on this issue. Refer also to the past actions of others (countries, IGOs) and whether your country believes they were effective or inhibitive. Refer to the chair report for UN resolutions, conventions, treaties, etc.</p>	
<p>C3- Identify and explain what your country hopes to achieve in relation to the issue.</p>	
<p>C4- Explain solutions and actions your country will not support (contradictions to your country stance).</p>	

<p>P4- What are some solutions your country would propose? (solutions)</p>	
<p>C1- Identify an action your country has taken, supported, or will support (address the causes and effects mentioned).</p>	
<p>C2- Explain why your country stance supports the action.</p>	
<p>C3- Elaborate on how the action will have certain advantages and disadvantages.</p>	
<p>C4- Building upon the advantages and disadvantages of the action mentioned, elaborate on how the action may be improved into a more effective solution.</p>	

< SINGLE SENTENCE SUMMARY of your country's position on this issue >

SOURCES/LINKS: (description) OR MLA

WHAT IS A POLICY STATEMENT (POSITION PAPER)?

A **policy statement** sets out to answer three basic questions:

1. What is the background to your country (or organization's) point of view on the issue?
2. What is your country's current position on the issue?
3. What does it hope to achieve in relation to the issue?

The policy statement serves as a draft document in the process of preparing both a resolution and opening speech.

The focus: Remember, that your policy statement should not focus primarily on your country's internal issues, but rather on the relevance of the issue to the international community, and about what your country would like to accomplish regarding the issue. If your country is a clear example of a successful UN program in action, or if your country is a member of an affected group, you will want to include a reference to that in your paper.

****TIP:** Although you should be as realistic and as professional as possible, you should allow yourselves some imaginative thinking on issues, while remaining within the realm of your country's position. ***Breakthroughs in diplomacy do not occur by strict adherence to the status quo, but delegates should not jeopardize or sacrifice their country's legitimate interests while seeking a breakthrough.***

THE POWER OF PRIMARY SOURCES:

For *your country's perspective*, you need to find **primary sources** that lay out your country's policy, programs, and past actions related to the issue. Using primary sources, like **speeches** (from your head of state or other government officials) and **government websites** (such as your Ministry of Foreign Affairs), is particularly important because no one can accuse you of going off-policy if you are **directly quoting your government**. (BUT be mindful of **dates**; quoting your government directly won't do any good if the info is outdated.) It also helps you figure out the **right rhetoric** to use when discussing the topic and writing resolutions. The **UN** and/or regional bodies may have meeting transcripts and [voting records](#) that include your country's contribution. Primary sources can be developed with **secondary sources** such as

critiques of the current situation and recommendations for future action in editorials and reports from [think tanks](#). See the [Research Links](#) docs.

BEYOND THE POLICY STATEMENT-

Other recommended steps for quick access to the info you need during lobbying & debate:

- **Chair Reports:** Make sure you are familiar with every term and every concept in the research report.
 - Create an outline while reading all three of your committee chair reports so you have a quick guide to the contents for later reference.
 - Define terms (especially legal definitions) and look for competing definitions (know the differences and the supporters of each).
 - Look up the (UN) documents mentioned in the report. Know what they include, why they are significant, and if your country supports them. This is especially important because your plan may be to amend parts of existing UN documents.
 - Address your country's policies regarding each of the problems, and see how your ideas compare to the possible solutions section.
 - Print the outline for your binder.

- **Wikipedia:** Break up the issue into smaller issues to make it easier to understand. Brainstorm a list of contributing factors, then do a Wikipedia search for basic facts on these smaller issues. Print for your binder.

- **Know past actions:** Find or develop a **timeline** of important events and major actions taken on the topic.
 - Go to the committee website and look for the most important resolutions, typically those mentioned in the topic paper and on Wikipedia. Review and print recent resolutions that have anything to do with the topic; this is great for building a massive binder to intimidate other delegates!
 - Realize that your committee is not the only body working on this topic; other committees and countries have probably taken action as well. Find out the most important actions taken with regard to your topic and who undertook them.

- **Go beyond the obvious:** You should assume everyone is as familiar with the chair reports as you!
 - Find outside research relevant to the topic that brings up new problems and solutions associated with the topic that were not listed in the chair report or were not as obvious so that you will be the one presenting new ideas to the committee.

- Thoroughly understand and take notes for all links student officers sent you.
- Find the latest news (dated Sept, Oct). This is especially important if there has been updates or changes since the writing of the chair report and the beginning of the conference.
- Print fact-filled pages from the above research.