Position Paper Guidelines

At ASFMUN, we believe the conference starts before you even step foot in the committee room. That is why we encourage students to write position papers that adhere to the highest standards of excellence— not only because they are a good first impression of the delegate, but because they are a great opportunity for students to really delve into the policy and proposals of their respective countries.

We believe position papers are accurate reflections of students' preparation, research, and policy understanding. It is for this reason that ASFMUN considers position papers as an essential part of the criteria to award distinctions to delegates. Additionally, ASFMUN awards a distinction to the Best Position Paper.

Our Leadership Team is currently reforming the guidelines for position papers specifically for this conference, keeping in mind the diverse backgrounds and abilities of international delegates to ensure the guidelines are fair to every participant. These revised guidelines will be released **Wednesday, August 28th** at the latest, though advisors will get a notification when this version is available on the website. In the meantime, here are some of the areas that have been assessed in the past.

1. **Background Guides:** Did they use the background guides as support, but brought original ideas? Did they address the key concepts of the guide? Can you tell they read it?
2. **References:** Is the information relevant? Did they do additional research to whatever is in the guide? Are their sources credible?
3. **Mechanics:** Is the grammar, spelling, and syntax good? Does the delegate use the English language appropriately and effectively?
4. **Policy Development:** Are the solutions they present realistic, based on evidence, and logical? Did they base themselves off existing solutions?
5. **Reference to the Real World:** Do they make numerous and relevant references to treaties, events, and information.?
6. **Formatting:** Does it have a complete header? Does it have the country flag? Did they use the required font and spacing? Do they have page numbers? Do they have MLA citations?
7. **Content:** Do they have all four sections of the paper?