

CGI War & Conflict Resolution & Position Paper Assignment

Each student is assigned a Resolution to write based on an essential topic from an American war or conflict covered during the semester. These are to be written, as either pro or con depending upon your assigned position, and in the proper CGI format, utilizing the CGI Resolution Template. Please refer to the posted chart for your assigned war, essential topic, point of view, due date and date you will lead the debate.

Additionally, each student must hand in a Position Paper for every war and essential question throughout the semester when he or she is not assigned to write a resolution. Below is a description of the position paper and the outline and checklist to follow when writing. AP Students' Position Papers must be 500 words, while Honors Students' Position Papers must be 250 words. Additionally, in order to receive credit, each student's Position Paper must be submitted to turnitin.com and must have a Works Cited page.

Writing a Position Paper

A position paper presents an arguable opinion about an issue. The goal of a position paper is to convince the audience that your opinion is valid and worth listening to. Ideas that you are considering need to be carefully examined in choosing a stance, developing your argument, and organizing your paper. It is very important to ensure that you are addressing all sides of the issue and presenting it in a manner that is easy for your audience to understand. Your job is to take one side of the argument and persuade your audience that you have well-founded knowledge of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with specific, historically accurate evidence to ensure the validity of your claims, as well as to address the counterclaims to show that you are well informed about both sides.

Analyzing an Issue and Developing an Argument

Your first task is to research the subject matter. While you may already have an opinion on your topic and an idea about which side of the argument you want to take, you need to ensure that your position is well supported. Listing out the pro and con sides of the topic will help you examine your ability to support your counterclaims, along with a list of supporting evidence for both sides. Supporting evidence includes the following:

Factual Knowledge - Information that is verifiable and agreed upon by almost everyone.

Statistical Inferences - Interpretation and examples of an accumulation of facts.

Once you have made your pro and con lists, compare the information side by side. Considering your audience, as well as your own viewpoint, choose the position you will take.

Organization

Your introduction should lead up to a thesis that organizes the rest of your paper. There are three advantages to leading with the thesis:

1. The audience knows where you stand.
2. The thesis is located in the two strongest places, the first and last paragraphs.
3. It is the most common form of academic argument used.

Below is the outline and checklist to follow when writing your Position Paper

Paragraph I. Introduction

- ___A. Introduce the topic
- ___B. Provide background on the topic
- ___C. Assert the thesis (your view of the issue that you will prove)

Paragraph (s) II. Counter Argument

- ___A. Summarize the counterclaims
- ___B. Provide supporting information for counterclaims
- ___C. Refute the counterclaims
- ___D. Give evidence for argument

Paragraph (s) III. Your Argument (*at least* 3 points and specific support must be used)

- ___A. Assert point #1 of your claims
 - ____1. State your assertion
 - ____2. Provide support
- ___B. Assert point #2 of your claims
 - ____1. State your assertion
 - ____2. Provide support
- ___C. Assert point #3 of your claims
 - ____1. State your assertion
 - ____2. Provide support

Paragraph IV. Conclusion

- ___A. Restate your argument
- ___B. Provide a plan of action