

Writing a Position Paper

The purpose of a position paper is to generate support for an issue. The position paper describes a position on an issue and then provides the rationale for that position.

Here are some points to keep in mind:

- You should use evidence to support your position. Look for authoritative sources to validate your position.
- You should examine the strengths and weaknesses of your position.
- You should consider evaluating possible solutions and suggesting courses of action.
- You may find it necessary to define and limit your issue before beginning your paper.

The following structure is typical of a position paper:

Introduction

- Identify the issue
- State your position

Body

- Provide background information
- Provide supporting evidence or facts (i.e. primary source quotations, statistical data, interviews, reports, etc.)
- Discuss both sides of the issue

Conclusion

- Suggest courses of action
- Provide possible solutions