

CGI Congress Position Paper Assignment

Each student is assigned two Position Papers per marking period, one per issue. All due dates are listed on the CGI Calendar.

Each student must hand in a Position Paper for each issue. Below is a description of the position paper and the rubric to follow when writing. All Position Papers must be one to two pages in length. Additionally, in order to receive credit, each student's Position Paper must be submitted to the department's turnitin.com page 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 before narrowing your focus, developing your argument, and organizing your paper. Your job is to focus on a specific idea within the main issue and persuade your audience that you have well-founded knowledge of the topic being presented. It is important to support your argument with specific, accurate evidence to ensure the validity of your claims, as well as to address the counterclaims to show that you are well informed. It is 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.

Analyzing an Issue and Developing an Argument

Your first task is to research the subject. While you may already have an opinion on your topic and an idea about which aspect of the argument you want to examine, you need to ensure that your position is well-supported and narrowed. 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.

Considering your audience, as well as your own viewpoint, write a thesis statement. A thesis statement includes a single central idea and makes a claim that requires support.

Example:

Main Topic: Marriage Equality

Narrowed Topics:

1. Is marriage State or Federal Jurisdiction?
2. Are Civil Unions the same as Marriages, or legally comparable?
3. Should equality be voted upon or legislated?
4. How does the Full Faith and Credit Clause affect the argument?
5. Is marriage a civil right that each person is entitled to?
6. What effect would marriage equality have on the economy?

Thesis Statement: In a republic, marriage equality should be determined by the representatives of the people in order to preserve the rights of the minority.

Counter Argument: In a democracy, the will of the people is sacrosanct and should determine the laws that govern society.

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

Paragraph I. Introduction (2 points)

- ___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 (2 points)

- ___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 (4 points)

- ___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 (2 points)

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