

Writing a Position Paper for a Crisis Committee

A position paper for any crisis committee will be much different from that of assembly committees. While the basic premise remains intact, the format will vary depending on the crisis. Here are some basic guidelines to help you research and write a position paper.

- Your paper should detail the extent of your position's involvement within the committee.
- Write the paper from your assigned position's point of view (if you represent a person, the position paper should fully represent their point of view on the crisis subject, written in the first person point of view)
- Focus on what your person/country would want to concentrate on and accomplish throughout the crisis sessions.
- Know the complete timeline of the crisis up until the committee session (as detailed in the background guide).

~ For Historical Committees:

DO NOT reference anything that has yet to come. You can use events to determine how your position might have reacted to an event and to help in the development of your character.

~ For Present Day Committees:

Make sure you note when the committee timeline will begin. Do not reference events that took place between the Background guide references and the present date. Always check with your Director to stay within the proper timeline.

~ For Futuristic Committees:

DO NOT make anything up.

* Recognize that you are playing a part in this committee that your director has established. Only he/she knows the full extent of the crisis.

* Since you are writing from a first person point of view, you do not need to include footnotes or a bibliography. You are welcome to include in text citations to give credit where it is due.

Sample Crisis Position Paper:

Jane Smith
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Laocoon, Seer and Trojan Priest of Apollo
Trojan Council

The Great War has been upon us for eight years now. The people grow weak from the sieges and disarray the city has been left in. Their faith is what is of greatest concern. In order for us to maintain our favorable position in this war, we must continue to appease the great gods. Our sacrifices and prayers to them shall not go unnoticed. The greatest tragedy that could befall us now would be to lose favor in the eyes of the most holy gods. For we must realize, it is not men that we should fear but rather the power of the Olympians guiding their decisions.

Our primary goal for the meeting of this council shall be to determine an expedient end to these eight years of war. The Greek forces command the lower beach, but do not command a presence throughout the Trojan plains. Their forces are powerful as a united front, but to actually cause discourse and separation between the great generals of the Achaean's would lead to too much dispersion and disorganization. We must appeal to the Olympians for their aid and support throughout our endeavors. If we were able to gain greater favor and support of the great gods who sponsor the Achaean's, this would surely change the current equality of our forces. For us to ensure our success to the greatest ends, I would encourage the Council to appease to each of the 12 Olympians individually as well as a cohesive group. We must be concerned with maintaining the consistent support and interest from the great Olympian himself, Zeus. In this great siege, he has acted as mediator between the gods favoring the different sides. Therefore, it is imperative that we maintain an excellent position of interest with Zeus. It is crucial for us to appeal to the greater power of Aphrodite, Ares, Apollo, and Artemis who have all expressed interest in the success and well-being of the great Council of Troy. Scamander is an important demi-god to remain cordial with as he commands the main plains and river that surround our noble city, and have thus far provided the area of battle. The titan goddess of the unseen, Leto, must be satisfied if we are to retain the help of her powerful twin's, Artemis and Apollo. Through our support and entreaty, she may also prove to be generous with her control over the unseen. Beyond the Olympians that remain in our favor, it will be just as pressing that we appeal to the greater charity and affection of the Olympians that support the Achaeans. It will be our actions as a nation that will instigate either their generosity and compassion or their anger and rage. The gods and goddesses supporting the Achaeans include Hera and Athena, who remain vengeful of Paris's decision over the Golden Apple. King Laomendon incurred the wrath of the great Poseidon, and we must deal with any repercussions this may have. Hermes, Hephaestus, and Thetis all are able to contribute impressive gifts to the Achaeans, and our praise and respective sacrifices may ensure they show superior compassion towards the Trojan armies. Our army must maintain respect of the Olympians during the battles to come, as this will decide our fate in the following years of war.

The support of our allies is of great importance to the success of the Troy. The past eight years have been demanding of these foreign armies, and we as a council must recognize their sacrifice. It is of common knowledge that the persuasion and diplomacy of King Priam in acquiring such support. To maintain these alliances we must take measures to comply with the requests of foreign leaders as well as promises made in initializing their alliance. The issue of succession and leadership of this council shall be decided upon preceding the consultation of the oracles. This is not a decision of men, rather a strategic decision of the Olympians. We, as men, must respect the resolution of the gods and goddesses in determining who may be most suited as the leader of Troy and its subsequent allies.

Our dispute over future relations with the Achaeans shall be determined and addressed as terms of surrender or defeat. We must allow these terms to be reasonable and favorable to both parties as to not incur further distaste and rage from the Olympians. The Dardanelles should be controlled by the distinguished nation of Troy with the cooperation of the inhabitants of Thrace. The straits are closest in proximity to the city of Troy and should therefore remain under its general management. As a nation, we shall grant shipping rights and routes of commerce to both our allies and Achaean counterparts following the war, as this will encourage great economic profits and expansion. This aspect of our topic shall encourage further expansion, economically and politically, of Troy. In order for us to express any sort of influence and management of the great Dardanelle Straits and the Black Sea, we will appeal to Poseidon and Athena for their guidance, protection, and wisdom in this endeavor.