

## POSITION PAPER

I. **TASK:** Write a position paper agreeing or disagreeing with the following proposition:

“Advanced” or developed cultures should have the right to impose their laws on cultures that are less “advanced” or developed.

### II. THE POSITION PAPER

A position paper is a research paper that seeks to persuade a reader to accept a particular point of view. Position papers are usually written in a brief but convincing manner.

### III. STRUCTURE AND FORMAT OF THE POSITION PAPER

#### First Paragraph

- Introduction: State the issue or problem to be addressed in the position paper.
- Mention opposing viewpoint.
- State your thesis clearly, (in one sentence if possible).

#### Second Paragraph

- Background information (if appropriate)
- First point supporting your position
  - Supporting points should be made up of elements such as, facts statistics, studies, arguments by noted authorities, examples, analogies....
  - Supporting information should be presented in a logical and persuasive fashion

#### Third, Fourth, Fifth Paragraph

- Each paragraph raises an important argument to support your thesis

#### Final Paragraph

- Conclusion restating your main thesis.
- Review, summary or synthesis of your arguments that support your thesis.

#### References:

- . Baugh, L. Sue, How to Write Term Papers and Reports. Chicago: VGM Career Horizons, 1993.
- . Smith, Bruce, “The History Paper, Part II: The Position Paper,” OAH History Magazine. Fall 1995: 29-30.