

Instructions for writing a position paper

In a position paper, the student demonstrates his or her familiarity with the required, recommended and/or related literature as well as critical thinking. A position paper typically consists of the following three sections:

- (1) Summary briefly outlining the main ideas of the reading(s) or introducing the situation;
- (2) Critical analysis of the given issue, including the author's own position and developing arguments;
- (3) Conclusion (or, if appropriate, recommendation).

The second section should comprise the majority of the position paper. For a 2-page PP, for example, section 1 should be approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a page, section 2 at least 1 page, and section 3 approximately $\frac{1}{2}$ of a page.

It is also common for students to be asked to provide up to 3 questions for further discussion with classmates in a future lecture. I kindly ask that you also do so.