

Topic Paper Criteria/Outline

- I. Title page with report title, authors names and institutions, and date
- II. Sections for the paper--The paper should be a rhetorical defense of the topic area with a clear analysis of issues, not merely a set of briefs.
 - A. History/Background
 - 1. Important/relevant issues
 - 2. SQ--state of current law/legislation, etc.
 - 3. Solutions currently being proposed
 - a. Pros and cons
 - b. Probability of passage
 - B. Resolutions 4-8
 - C. Affirmative cases/ground--articulate a variety of arguments for different styles and levels
 - D. Negative arguments/ground-- articulate a variety of arguments for different styles and levels
- III. Appendix
 - A. Definitions
 - 1. Multiple definitions from a variety of sources for keywords
 - 2. Definitions of topic specific terms in the proposed resolutions
 - 3. Definitions of terms rejected for the proposed resolutions
 - B. Bibliography
 - 1. Include the works cited in the paper
 - 2. Include an additional cross section of what is readily available
 - C. NFHS Criteria--1-2 pages (this should be the last thing in paper for easy reference)
 - 1. Resolutions in priority order
 - 2. Timeliness
 - 3. Scope
 - 4. Range
 - 5. Quality
 - 6. Material
 - 7. Interest
 - 8. Balance
 - 9. One paragraph (180-200 words) draft synopsis of the topic area, suitable for publication on the topic ballot. This will be revised to include more topic specific items once the specific topic is chosen.