Position Paper Planning Outline P1 – Introduction

Step One: Identify the perspective of the source. Is it, Classical liberalism, modern liberalism, socialist, communist, fascist, neo-conservative?

Step Two: Analyze the source – explain its meaning, bring in exact vocabulary and how it reflects the perspective. Pull it apart sentence by sentence and explain the meaning of the source both in general terms and more specifically.

Step Three: demonstrate your understanding of that ideology – explain underlying assumptions, beliefs, principles, etc.

Step Four: State your position in a clear, precise manner, as to whether or not you agree or disagree with this ideological perspective. This will become your thesis statement.
Position Paper Planning Outline P2 – Body

Step One: Topic Sentence – this sentence should introduce the reason/argument in a general way and relate back to the source.

Step Two: Explain the reason/argument: fully explain the “WHY”. Try to relate back to the underlying foundations for all arguments: Economic, moral, effectiveness, feasibility, social acceptance, or environmental.

Step Three: Describe the evidence (accurate, relevant, detailed, and specific)

Step Four: Concluding Sentence – restate your reason in general terms. Do not end with a rhetorical question.
Position Paper Planning Outline P3 – Body

Step One: Topic Sentence – this sentence should introduce the reason/argument in a general way and relate back to the source.

Step Two: Explain the reason/argument: fully explain the “WHY”. Try to relate back to the underlying foundations for all arguments: Economic, moral, effectiveness, feasibility, social acceptance, or environmental.

Step Three: Describe the evidence (accurate, relevant, detailed, and specific)

Step Four: Concluding Sentence – restate your reason in general terms. Do not end with a rhetorical question.
Position Paper Planning Outline P4 – Body

Step One: Topic Sentence – this sentence should introduce the reason/argument in a general way and relate back to the source.

Step Two: Explain the reason/argument: fully explain the “WHY”. Try to relate back to the underlying foundations for all arguments: Economic, moral, effectiveness, feasibility, social acceptance, or environmental.

Step Three: Describe the evidence (accurate, relevant, detailed, and specific)

Step Four: Concluding Sentence – restate your reason in general terms. Do not end with a rhetorical question.
Position Paper Planning Outline P5 – Conclusion


Step Two: Restating the ideological perspective that the source reflects

Step Three: Referring back to the source and pulling quotes when necessary

Step Four: End with a powerful statement that will leave an impression on the reader that signifies that you have a deep understanding and have thought critically about the topic.