

Resolution Writing Guidelines:

Adopted from the National Student Nurses' Association Guidelines for Planning Resolutions for the NSNA House of Delegates, for Iowa Association of Nursing Students

A resolution is a written statement which contains a position and actions important to nursing, NSA members, legislature, and the health needs of the public. It is written and supported with nursing research, and it takes a stance on a particular issue. A resolution, if adopted, serves as a basis for policies and actions of the Iowa Association of Nursing Students. Resolutions should be state-based, with Iowa Association of Nursing Student's as their audience.

A resolution has two parts: whereas statements which summarize research, reasons, and rationales for the resolutions, and a resolved section which uses whereas statements to explain the positions to be taken on the issue as well as the actions and outcomes expected. A resolution hearing ensures that the resolution, its stance, and costs/implementation have been reviewed carefully and can be discussed before the House of Delegates votes upon the issue.

Choose a Topic

The first part to writing a resolution is to choose a topic/position that you feel passionate for and you are willing to advocate for. The topic needs to be nursing based, related to our profession or healthcare. Topics should be thought provoking and stir some discussion when presented during the resolutions hearing. The topics must be scoped towards the state, and need to be actions/positions you believe that IANS should support.

Topics should not be the same as any resolution presented at IANS during the past five years, as it may be rejected by the resolution committee. It is recommended that all authors review previous resolutions, review the guidelines, and ask for guidance from the Resolutions Chair prior to writing of the resolution. Writing the Resolution: Whereas Statements After picking the topic, there needs to be sufficient and credible research found which supports your stance. This research will be used to formulate the "whereas" statements, and the research will serve as the "meat" of the resolution. Research can come from journals, web site articles, text and reference books, materials from an organization, and research papers. It is strongly suggested that most sources come from professional journals or other appropriate sources. From these articles, pick important statistics and facts which support your topic. These will help strengthen your stance and cause. The whereas statements explain and defend the topic and are clear and concise.

Please note that all sources must be evidence-based research and can be no more than 5 years old. These statements should be limited to 300 words and should have just one quote/reference per Whereas statement. All copies of articles and documentation will need to be provided with the final resolution. In addition, a complete bibliography, APA format, and documentation underlining the research must be provided.

An example of a whereas statement:

WHEREAS, in 2006, "22.3% of Emergency Department visits were classified as emergent, and 34.2% were urgent" (McCaig & Burt, 2007, p. 4); and

This statement uses a statistic which supports the topic and is properly cited. All whereas statements must have an in-text citation as well as be included in the bibliography and have the source printed.

Writing the resolution: Resolve Statements Next are the resolve statements, which reflect the topic statements. They summarize the specific stance you wish IANS takes on the issue. Ask yourself: What would I like IANS to do to support this issue/ topic?

An Example of a resolve statement:

"RESOLVED, that the NSNA[®] advocate that those on any substance consistently, whether prescription or non prescription medications, compile and carry a list of those

The first resolve statement should summarize the statement of belief/commitment you would like IANS to take on the issue. These are the actions you wish the organization to take. They support the topic discussed. Additional resolve statements are aimed at implementation of the resolution, such as actions to be taken, letters to be sent, and names of organizations/ agencies that a copy of the resolution is sent to.

*As the author of the resolution, you are the expert on your topic. IANS will not be creating or writing any articles, pamphlets, letters, etc. that you wish to be shared with nursing students or organizations/agencies. Please phrase your resolved statements accordingly:

"RESOLVED, that IANS publish an article written by the authors providing information on the importance of carrying a medication list on the IANS website and Facebook page"

Reviewing/ Editing After the preliminary draft, it is important to have it reviewed and critiqued by others. Having it edited by teachers and other faculty members will help with suggestions for deletions or alterations and make it more credible and professional before presentation at resolution hearings. Please note the title of the resolution may be no more than 15 words, or 110 characters with spaces.

Submitting the Resolution

Two resolutions can be submitted per school to IANS each year. More than two resolutions per school may be taken if approved by the IANS Board of Directors. Resolutions must be submitted no later than

Friday, September 20, 2019 to: lediansdirector@gmail.com. This is a strict deadline. If all requirements have been met for completion of the resolution, a response will be received within 5 business days. Complete review of the resolution may take up to 15 business days. If you have not received an email from the Resolutions Chair after 15 days following submission of your resolution, please send an email to lediansdirector@gmail.com with the name of your resolution and the author.

Resolutions must:

- Be typed into the resolution template provided
- Be postmarked by deadline date- September 20, 2019
- Be submitted by NSNA members
- Be authored by NSNA members and submitted by an official constituent

To be complete, resolutions must be submitted via email, and include the check list- be sure to double check the list before submitting the resolution. Include one copy of the following:

- Documentation (references) used for the “whereas” clauses. Each whereas clause must have a specific citation in the body of the resolution. The sentences referenced must be underlined in the documentation
- Accurate names and addresses for all organizations, agencies, and individuals mentioned in the “resolved” clauses
- A detailed list of the estimated cost of implementing the resolution, noted on a separate page
- An abstract, to include purpose of the resolution and intended outcomes. This is limited to 75 words.

Board of Directors Review

After the resolutions have been completed, they are reviewed by the IANS board of directors for legality and feasibility of implementation. Once the board review is completed, a resolution becomes the property of the House of Delegates.

Resolutions Hearings

Resolutions are formally discussed in the Resolutions Hearings before being debated on the floor before the House of Delegates. At this time, editorial and other changes not affecting the content of the resolution may be made. The authors must be present when the resolution is presented at the hearings. They will be given three minutes to discuss their resolution and be given an opportunity to accept or reject any changes made by the delegates in the house. All delegates are required to attend all hearings.

Documentation Review

Complete documentation for all resolutions is available for review by delegates during convention. Specific times and locations will be available in the program book, at IANS annual convention

House of Delegates

The House of Delegates is the voting and decision making body of IANS. When a resolution reaches the house floor, it may be amended by any delegate. In order for a resolution to become IANS policy and be implemented, it must be adopted by the House of Delegates. Once the resolution is introduced in the House of Delegates, the author gives a two minute pro statement about their resolution to the House of Delegates.

Implementation of Resolutions

Unless specified otherwise in the resolution, the IANS BOD has the primary responsibility for its implementation, based on the directives in the “resolved” clauses. Resolutions are edited for consistency and editorial style and are sent to the parties named in the “resolved” clauses.

Sample Resolution ***Keep in mind resolutions need to be IANS based, not NSNA based***

The following resolution was passed at the 2014 IANS House of Delegates TOPIC: DISCONTINUATION OF THE EDUCATION OF HOMAN’S SIGN AS AN ASSESSMENT OF DEEP VEIN THROMBOSIS SUBMITTED BY: Briar Cliff University

WHEREAS, QSEN has developed definitions for the six core competencies established by the IOM report for integrating a quality and safety framework for nursing, one of which is evidence based practice defined as “integrate best current evidence with clinical expertise and patient/family preferences and values for delivery of optimal health care (Sherwood & Zomorodi, 2014); and

WHEREAS, “Homan’s test lacks both sensitivity and specificity, and thus is of no clinical value” (Cranley, Canos, & Sull, 1976; Haeger, 1969; McLachlin, Richards & Paterson, 1962; Tovey & Wyatt, 2003; Urbano, 2001; Vaccaro, Van Aman, Miller, Fachman, & Smead, 1986 as cited in Anthony, 2013); and

WHEREAS, “Despite evidence Homan’s sign is not useful in screening for DVT, it continues to appear in health assessment textbooks for nurses and evidence suggests its continued use by some practitioners” (Watkins, 2009 as cited in Anthony, 2013); and

WHEREAS, Mosby’s Guide to Physical Examination defines Homan’s sign as “pain or discomfort behind the knee or in the calf when the ankle is gently dorsiflexed while the knee is flexed; it suggests thrombosis of the leg veins (Seidel, Ball, Dains, Flynn, Solomon, & Stewart, 2011); and

WHEREAS, Jarvis (2012) describes technique of Homan’s sign and further states “calf pain with these maneuvers is a positive Homan sign, which occurs in about 35% of cases of deep vein thrombosis”; and

WHEREAS, Anthony (2013) further states that “eliciting a false Homan’s sign could serve to exclude the possibility of a DVT in the mind of a practitioner, while a positive response could lead to unnecessary additional testing and anticoagulation”; and

WHEREAS, Anthony (2013) noted that “It should not be included in health assessment textbooks or taught in nursing programs, and nurses in health care settings should not rely on this test to screen for deep vein thrombosis”; therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the IANS promote awareness of the inaccuracy of the Homan's sign as an assessment tool; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IANS will encourage all nursing programs at Colleges and Universities throughout the United States to support and facilitate discontinuation of teaching on the Homan's sign as an assessment tool; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IANS encourages nursing students to be proactive and advocate for the discontinuation of the use of Homan's sign in practice; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IANS will promote education to current nurses on the inaccuracy and unreliability of Homan's as a tool to assess for DVT; and be it further

RESOLVED, that the IANS send a copy of this resolution to National Council of State Boards of Nursing, the American Nurses Association, the American Association of Colleges of Nursing, nationally recognized standardized testing organizations, publishing companies of nursing textbooks and all others deemed appropriate by the IANS Board of Directors.

For additional help, please visit:

[NSNA Resolution Guidelines](#)

[NSNA Resolution Writing Guide](#)

[NSNA Steps to Writing a Resolution](#)

[Email IANS Legislative and Education Director](#)

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