



**IMSMUNC'19**



**INTERNATIONAL  
PRESS**

***BACKGROUND GUIDE***

## **Message from the International Press Head:**

Dear journalists and photographers,

We welcome you to IMS MUN 2019!

It is of the highest recommendation that the delegates go through this study guide and read it carefully, an additional of reports collection from verified sources is also required to have a good grasp of the topic. With all this information at your disposal and a lot more to be researched, I hope that you are ready to enter the world of diplomacy global politics, and put to use your journalistic gravitas. Journalists require critical minds that can gather analyses and report the information obtained on a wide range of topics. The International Press is an integral part of UN's strategy to promote development, democracy, human rights and peace. The role of an International Press journalist is to act unbiased while reporting on the proceedings of each simulation in the Conference.

We'll always be there to make you comfortable but as we all know to get the best out of this conference you all have to move out of your comfort zones. Photographers require being creative, so that they can make their photographs different from others. Alertness of the surrounding, so that you can capture each and every emotion and activities going around the photographer. Moreover, there are lots of skills to show and a lot to learn in photography. The purpose behind simulation of this committee is to provide you with an experience that shall sharpen your writing and communicating and photography skills simultaneously introducing you to how the International press works. The reporters and photographers are entrusted to investigate committee debates, conduct interviews and create a journal which echoes the power of press. **ALL THE BEST**

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### **Purpose of the Committee:**

International Press is a committee which may look very easy but obviously it is not, International Press is one of the most hardworking committee as it works both on and behind the scene to get all the information and to capture the preparations and even the conference. The main purpose of this committee is to capture and get the details and each and every single happening going before, during and even after the sessions and finally portray that hard work in front of everyone during the closing ceremony in the form of an after movie. So, the most important thing to do in the International Press is the teamwork and being cooperative with any other delegate be them the fellow IP members or the members of any other committee.

### **Roles and Responsibilities of IP Photographers:**

Being an International Press photographer is not a cup of tea, It is a very crucial and a very important work which comes with a lots of problems that may be faced by being a photographer, as you have to be the part of the other committees to get good photographs but if any disturbance is created you can be the one to be pointed out and may be asked to move out of the committee and many similar problems in that case. You have to work all the time is it the time of opening ceremony where the other delegates will be sitting and enjoying the ceremony but you'll be the one working at that time too. All the other committee delegates will get a lot of time to relax but we have to work very hard to get our best shots. Always keep one saying in mind:

“The harder work one does to get a good shot; the better is the result they get...”

By keeping this in mind you'll always feel motivated as many a time we have seen some photographers getting bored themselves due to lack of interest and even not letting other photographers do their work. Coming to the point of responsibilities of the photographers, there is a lot to keep in mind, so let's have some of the important points:

Photographs: The most important thing by which the photographer is known are the photographs they click the one who'll click will be known for the reason

of clicking good photographs but the one not that good will also be known because of the photographs of the people they click. So, the most important duty / responsibility of the photographers is to capture each and everything.

**Alertness:** To be a good photographer it is very important to be alert of what is going around there in your surroundings and even in the committees because if one is not alert how one is going to capture the photographs.

**Activeness:** The delegate should be active all the time and should do all duties with lots of interest and enthusiasm so that other delegates also get interested in their respective works as photographers are the one who can have lots of impact and can motivate fellow delegates.

### **Photography:**

As we all know photography is a work for some of the people, hobby for some and passion for others. The one who have passion or take it as their hobby know that it's not just an easy task but an art and there is a lot to be learned in this field of photography.

“Photography is an art; it is an art when once learned;

Teaches one, how to find beauty in everything around them...”

There are many things that will be learnt by you during this conference, but there are some guidelines that you have to keep in mind.

### **Photographs to be Submitted by The Photographers:**

**After each session the photographers are required to submit at**

**Least the given number of photographs:**

☐ 10 Photographs of the placards raised by the committee (group showing at least 5 raised placards).

☐ 5 photographs of individual are raising placards.

☐ 10 photographs showing the entire committee (do not click photographs in just one committee).

☐ 5 photographs of the delegates doing some activities

☐ 5 photographs where emotions are captured well.

☐ 5 funny and 5 good candid of the delegates.

☐ At least 3 photographs of each Executive Board member.

☐ At least 1 video of the committee.

The above-mentioned Photographs must have creativity and should not be in standard perspective. There should be the innovation by the delegates to make the photographs look amazing.

### **Some Points to Keep in Mind:**

☐ The Photographs must have proper focus on what the photographer wants to show.

☐ the photographer must try to take a photograph which depicts a story or emotions and must not be blank or should not lack in expressions.

☐ there should be no editing done by the photographer.

☐ the photographer must keep in mind to use different perspective and be creative.

☐ No disturbance should be created by the photographers while in the committee or during the change of committee rooms.

☐ No personal photo-shoots of people will be tolerated.

☐ must carry their own equipment. No sharing of equipment will be

encouraged. the delegates must maintain decorum in and outside the  
☐committee.

☐The photographs that will be clicked must be original and not copied from someone else.

☐Must keep in mind that date and day stamps on the photographs are turned off.

☐Must click the photographs in JPEG format only.

### **Some Extra Tips:**

☐The delegates must carry extra batteries and memory cards, so that you don't face any problem of memory shortage or discharged battery.

☐Delegates must carry a laptop which would save time.

☐Must carry tripods to make the video look more stable.

☐Carry all the equipment's that one has so that they can be used when needed and do not feel bad anytime for not carrying them.

☐Must carry the chargers for everything so that batteries can be charged on the go.

☐Carry extra storages (external hard drives, pen drives) to sort the photographs.

☐Must research on how to cover such events and conferences.

☐Do not click Photographs in any other format except JPEG.

### **Some Key Points to Remember:**

1. Technical excellence (blur, lighting, contrast, angle, colour balance, exposure, sharpness, colour and tonal rendition)
2. Originality (post-production is generally frowned upon, no edits, no watermarks) the idea of taking pictures in a creative manner

3. Clear and impactful focus on the subject
4. Composition of the photo, i.e., what is being covered and the colour balance is maintained or manipulated to give a better picture
5. Visual and aesthetic criteria (framing of the picture, elements and the principle, visual impact and background)
6. Content (emotion, information, ideology, feeling, mood, communication meaning and subject impact)
7. Style
8. Validity
9. Photographic vision
10. Interest
11. Activity during the conference (how much does the photographer move, does the photographer create any kind of disturbance during the committee sessions, whether every part of the conference is covered or not).
12. Punctuality
13. Behaviour and language

### **Role and Responsibilities of an IP Journalist**

An ideal reporter or an interjector during simulations of international organizations and think tanks requires more research and presence of mind than an international delegate. The entire image of a press delegation without adequate research is flawed. The very basic roots that this draft is based on are research and a strong value of transforming the role of press. A simple statement by a state can cause a huge war if misinterpreted thus it is the journalist's responsibility to overcome individual perceptions and not deviate from the facts. Reporters are responsible for observing the simulations as they unfold and disseminating information regarding those events. In doing so, Reporters are responsible for conducting their own background research,

whether it be gathering basic information on relevant topics or conducting interviews. You would stay in your designated committee to collect pieces of news, produce articles and decide what gets published and what doesn't and send those to Press Headquarters. As a reporter, you must be willing to write quickly, concisely and to edit your own work; you are expected to be quirky, sharp and sly. You're meant to listen to the delegates debating and are allowed to ask questions without disrupting the sessions.

**1. News Articles:** The bulk of writing for the newsletter will consist of news reporting, drawing upon debates, caucuses, resolutions, press releases and 4 interviews observed by the Reporters in the various council simulations.

Depending on the availability of personnel, individual Reporters will be assigned a "beat" of one or more committee/council simulations on which to report, and may be assigned to conduct interviews during tea or lunch.

**2. Editorials and Op-Eds:** Editors and Directors of International Press may choose to write Editorials on one or more of the debates on-going in the council. Reporters may write Op-Eds for the newsletter after they have finished reporting or as per a special task assigned to them. Editorials or OpEds do not have to contain any information on what in the council/committee but concerns what the author thinks of the discussion at hand. Editorials and Op-Eds have to be very high in standards of writing and expression, and publication shall be at the subject of discretion of the Editorial Board. In clear words, Editorials and Op-Eds differ from News articles in matters of substance than events.

**3. Interviews:** An interview is an opportunity of a personal interaction with a person. It is an effective tool which should be utilized to bring out those aspects which will not come in light otherwise in the course of the MUN. Interviews can be done with the Executive Board members, delegates, secretariat and various organizing committees. However, intelligent and conference pertaining issues are to be considered.

**4. Press Conference:** The basic ingredient of the press conference is research. You will be allowed to ask 4-5 delegates of your councils, polite subsidiary questions on probably the second day of the conference, with the prior



permission of your Executive Board. You will be trained and guided by your editor in chief for the press conference in the briefing. However, the opportunity to conduct a press conference will be subjected to the time constraints that the organizers have. Their permission and word will be deemed final.

Note: Reporters are entrusted with delivering accurate and objective Conference news through thorough, objective, and courteous investigation. The Conference is designed to give Reporters broad freedom in reporting, but Reporters cannot enter or leave during a vote or use any unconventional method to obtain information socially unacceptable according to the norms of reporting.

## 5. REPORTING

Formal reporting is one of the most important tasks assigned to the reporters at any conference. You are required to report an event in as few words as possible. You can do this if you use short and simple words and keep out irrelevant facts. The intro of your report must be short and crisp. The body must be made up of as few paragraphs as possible with each paragraph devoted to one point. There should be no ambiguities. The facts must be sourced, and accurate. Important points to be kept in mind while writing a report are;

**Brevity:** Remember, Brevity is always the soul of the wit. Your report should be brief and to the point. Quality is preferred over quantity. Council reports are generally 300-350 words each. Please do not write longer reports. **Objectivity:** Your article must not betray your personal opinions about the topic at hand, unless it is an opinion piece. This is the major difference between reporting and writing an Op-ed article. You should be neutral while reporting events. For this purpose, include a lot of quotes and statements, giving due credit to the speaker.

**Coherence:** Your article must be coherent and well-structured. It ought to contain an identifiable opening, two descriptive paragraphs, and a conclusion. You must give your article a relevant headline and a by-line containing “By (Your Name)”. Lack of the same may result in negative marking. Every line

mentioned in the article ought to be pertinent to the idea you are attempting to convey. (For further elaboration, read next section on Beat) Accuracy Grammar and punctuation must not be compromised with. A spell-check of the final draft is essential.

## **6. Beat Reporting**

Considering that any Model United Nations conference has multiple discussions in every session, it is virtually impossible to report every Caucus/Point in your article. Therefore, your focus should not be on putting in as much information as you can, but to put in only the relevant information. The best way to include the most pertinent information in your article is to recognize a 'beat' and write a beat-based article. A beat-based article is essentially a specialized article wherein the journalist presents an in- depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise, and which also involves amassment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat of such an article, then, is a central idea around which the contents of the article are formed. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. You shall be able to identify the beat of the day's discussion only through careful observation and attention, so be sure you are present, mentally and physically, during all formal sessions. All the previously mentioned rules of reporting apply to beat reporting as well. Include as many factual details and quotes as possible, within the context of the article, as facts help readers understand your work better.

## **7. Beat Capturing Exercises: -**

**1.) Consider this excerpt:** - President Barack Obama and Afghan President Hamid Karzai agreed on Friday to speed up the handover of combat operations in Afghanistan to Afghan forces, raising the prospect of an accelerated U.S. withdrawal from the country and underscoring Obama's determination to wind down a long, unpopular war. Signalling a narrowing of differences, Karzai appeared to give ground in talks at the White House on U.S. demands for immunity from prosecution for any American troops who stay in Afghanistan beyond 2017, a concession that could allow Obama to keep at least a small residual force there.

**1. Now you have three options for the beat:** - Obama Karzai accelerates the end of US combat role in Afghanistan.

**2.** USA set to withdraw troops from Afghanistan

**3.** Afghanistan welcomes US peace talks.

The correct Answer: - Obama Karzai accelerate the end of US combat role in Afghanistan

(Because it conveys the essence of the press statement)

2.) We praise the courage of the Republic of South Sudan's leadership in taking this decision. As I said in Juba yesterday, the interests of their people were at stake. The oil impasse has lasted more than six months. Now was the time to bring this impasse to a close, for the good of the people of South Sudan and their aspirations for a better future in the face of on-going challenges. South Sudan's leaders have risen to the occasion. They tabled a bold comprehensive proposal at this latest round of talks, and an agreement was hammered out with the strong assistance of the African Union High Level Implementation Panel for Sudan (AUHIP). The future of South Sudan is now brighter. Try figuring it out yourself.

[www.pulitzer.com](http://www.pulitzer.com) for winners of the Pulitzer prize in beat

reporting in beat reporting. After you have seen the best

of beat reporting, please visit [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com) or

[www.reuters.com](http://www.reuters.com) and read the daily reports.

Familiarize yourself with the reporting style. All of the articles given above talk about a specific incident/development/debate, and contain facts, figures and quotes to substantiate their subject. If you observe carefully, the contents of each article point to one core idea being communicated to the reader.

**Op-ed reports:** Op-Ed in very simple terms refers to an opinionated article. It is often understood to be an abbreviation for opinion editorials or an abbreviation for 'opposite to the editorial' page. Different textbooks would claim either to be the more authoritative definition but 'opposite to the

editorial page' is a more commonly found definition, particularly in conventional books. There are different styles of writing op-eds as different op-eds serve different functions. There are really no specific types of op-eds but familiarizing oneself with the variety of writing styles would help one write interesting and informative op-eds. The first step to writing any op-ed is research. Research does not just include finding or verifying facts but also examining different perspectives on an issue. For instance, if I am an Indian writer writing an op-ed on the withdrawal of US troops from Afghanistan, it is imperative for me to read publications from Pakistan, India and US, at the very least to be able to comment on the issue. At the end of the day, an op-ed is very simply a comment but cannot be a senseless one.

**Some of the functions that op-eds perform include, but are not restricted to:**

- Debating a proposition and/or providing rebuttals
- Providing background and/or historical perspective on a contemporary issue
- Highlighting aspects/dimensions that are hitherto not covered by 'news pieces'
- Provide suggestions and/or map out a plan of action
- Explain an idea, concept in immense detail
- Share expertise an op-ed is almost like an essay though an essay may demand a holistic perspective or an all-round approach- something that is not mandatory for an op-ed. However, an op-ed differs from an editorial in the sense that an op-ed reflects an individual's views while an editorial reflects a newspaper's policy. Hence, the moral onus on an editorial is much higher and an editorial cannot take sides on an issue openly. It is supposed to be a presentation of views, yet abstain from being subjective. For instance, an editorial on US withdrawal from Afghanistan can list the repercussions of this move for the two countries in terms of possibilities but an editorial cannot take a moral high ground supporting a particular side in order to maintain neutrality and objectivity.

**Things to keep in mind while writing an Op-ed:** As much as an op-ed is an opinion and doesn't require one to state facts, it should still be based on facts, verified accurate facts. I need not mention the date of US troops' withdrawal

but if I am examining the immediate aftermath of this move, not knowing the right date defeats the entire purpose of my opinion. Again, since an op-ed is not factual, it doesn't mean one can beat around the bush easily. An op-ed is a fairly long piece of writing and hence, it is important to structure it in a way that the audience doesn't lose interest. Even though the primary purpose of an op-ed is to express opinion, it cannot express senseless arguments. An informed opinion should find its way to the audience's mind after reading the op-ed. There is a possibility that readers may disagree with your stance but nothing is worse than arguments that can't be comprehended or are too complicated. If you are attempting to express a complicated argument, try to break it down into simple concepts and use easy language to express it. The way one structures an argument also makes a difference to how it is comprehended. In a conventional structure, it is preferable to focus on a single point and arrange arguments in such a way that they build up to the concluding, final point which is the key emphasis of the article. However, a lot of writers prefer to write op-eds that focus on more than one aspect and is multi-dimensional in its analysis of the issue at hand. What is important to always remember is that too many points can lead to confusion and one should use the given word limit as a yardstick to determine how many aspects could be covered. The key defining feature of an op-ed is ANALYSIS. What comprises analysis? Analysis refers to examining an argument against different perspectives and paradigms. The more perspectives one would engage with, the more holistic analysis will one generate. One can derive new and interesting arguments by reading different publications with different ideologies. Further, smart journalist/op-ed writer should be able to read between the lines as well.

What makes an argument? An argument should begin with a statement of the proposition followed by the reasoning and if possible, concluded with an example.

**For example, if I am trying to state that popular culture also shapes rape culture, then my argument should not just state this fact, it should also explain how that happens. When arguments are not backed with reasoning, they become assertions and assertions make an op-ed shallow.**

**Different styles of writing an Op-ed:**

The following section includes some op-eds. These are not necessarily the most amazing pieces of writing but have been included just to illustrate the different styles. More than their individual merit, it would help if you compare these with each other.

**Example 1:** <http://muslimmatters.org/2013/10/25/rebuttal-should-Muslims-reconsider-Eid-slaughter/>

Now this article serves the sole function of providing rebuttals to another article. It is structured in the same fashion as the article it is trying to demolish.

Pros: Very structured, argument-by-argument analysis is presented, multiple points lead to a final conclusion

Cons: Since it is a response, one would want to read the original article to get a complete understanding of the issue.

**Example 2:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leah-kashar/rules-of-feminism\\_b\\_4191116.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.com/leah-kashar/rules-of-feminism_b_4191116.html)

It is difficult to pinpoint pluses and minuses because it may work for some and not for others. But some key features are it deals with too many issues in the same article. One can almost write an individual piece on every argument stated. The last para is a brilliant summary for someone who gets caught in the larger web of arguments.

**Example 3:** [http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/the-Cambridge-union-society/feminism-we-still-needcambridge-union-society\\_b\\_2858567.html](http://www.huffingtonpost.co.uk/the-Cambridge-union-society/feminism-we-still-needcambridge-union-society_b_2858567.html)

**Some of the best op-eds are written when they attempt to answer why/what/how question. As a writer, coming up with a question why/what/how question helps to gain clarity and sort otherwise muddled thoughts.**

**Example 4:** <http://caravandaily.com/portal/Muslims-asap-and-a-missed-opportunity/>

This (wannabe) op-ed is trying to deal with an extremely important and valid thought. But like AAP, the article too seems to have missed the opportunity. Apart from reeking with assertions, there is absolutely no substantiation. Extremely poor read. No arguments are examined, no hypothesis or if-then else analysis. This topic easily is expanded into an excellent op-ed by creating linkages which are currently missing in this piece.

## **Interviews**

Conducting interviews for news stories is an important skill for any journalist. A “source” – anyone a journalist interviews - can provide the following elements that are vital to any news story: Basic factual information Perspective and context on the topic being discussed

Direct quotes

Ideas on how to approach the story

Names and contact information of other people to interview

## **Interviews in MUNs:**

The constant debating may provide with little opportunities of you getting ample time for a detailed interview. The ideal interview times are refreshment breaks and through chits. Chits are one tool which we encourage you to use for substantive purpose only. You can bring out the relevant points through chits and you can take permission for a prior interview through them.

## **Preparing for the Interview:**

**Research** – Do as much research as you can. If you’re going to interview, say, a head of state read up on the subject and make sure you understand basic terms such as “fiscal policy.” A well-prepared reporter inspires confidence in the person being interviewed.

**Developing Questions** – Once you’ve thoroughly researched your topic, prepare a list of questions to ask. That will help you remember all the points you want to cover once the interview is underway.

## **Keys to a Successful Interview:**

Establish a Rapport – When starting out, don't abruptly launch into your questions. Chitchat a little with your source.

Keep it Natural – An interview can be an uncomfortable experience, so keep things natural and conversational. Instead of mechanically reading out your list of questions, weave your queries naturally into the flow of the conversation. Also, maintain eye contact as much as possible. Nothing is more unnerving to a source than a reporter who never looks up from their notebook.

Is Open – Don't be so focused on getting through your list of questions that you miss something interesting.

Maintains Control – Be open, yes, but don't waste your time. If your source starts to ramble on about things that are clearly of no use to you, don't be afraid to gently – but firmly – steer the conversation back to the topic at hand.

Wrapping Up – At the end of the interview, ask your source if there's anything they want to discuss that you hadn't asked about. Double-check the meanings of any terms or words they used that you're unsure about. And always ask if there are other people, they recommend that you speak with.

A Note about note-taking – Beginning reporters often freak out when they realize they can't possibly write down everything the source is saying, word for word. Don't sweat it. Experienced reporters learn to take down just the interesting stuff they know they'll use, and ignore the stuff they won't. This takes some practice, but the more interviews you do, the easier it gets.

## **Extra Tips**

### **STYLE OF WRITING**

- **Abbreviations.** No periods should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organization or agency. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used. If questions arise see the Editor or Publisher. Some example abbreviations include: Presidium MUN, CS, DS, ECOSOC, FAO, GA, HG, HSC, ICJ, IPD, NATO, UK, UN, US, and USSR.
- **Apostrophes.** This punctuation mark will only be used to indicate possessive nouns or secondary quotations. Apostrophes are never used to indicate pluralisation.



- **Currency.** Dollar values are displayed with the appropriate currency symbol. Values on orders at or greater than one million are summarized, for example \$54,000, \$135,000 or \$214 million. Indian Rupees shall be written as INR and not 'Rs'.
- **Capitalization.** Nowhere shall anything but Abbreviations be capitalized.
- **Boldface text.** There is no situation in which boldface should be used in an article. Headlines and article titles may be bolded by the Publisher. Books and print sources. Names of all books and print sources should be capitalized and italicized, such as the newsletter, New York Times and The Economist. Developing nations. Within the international community, the use of the term "third world" is actively discouraged. No nation will be referred to as "Third World."
- **Diplomatic courtesy.** While Reporters are encouraged to faithfully report on the statements of representatives within each Presidium MUN simulation, no quotation should violate the dictates of diplomatic courtesy. All articles, editorials, letters, press releases and personals to be included in the newsletter will be carefully edited to ensure that all content remains courteous to all participants at Presidium MUN. If a Reporter feels that a quotation by a representative is discourteous, the representative should be encouraged to rephrase the statement in a more courteous fashion or risk having it omitted from the reporter's article.
- **Hyphenation.** Hyphens should only be applied according to American English grammar. If questions arise, consult the Editors. Examples of typically hyphenated prefixes include non-, sub- and ex-. Some compound words are hyphenated as well, such as socio-political. Member States.

In print, references to United Nations "Member States" should be initially capitalized.

- **Names.** Reporters should never guess the spelling of a person's name to be reported. Verbal verification is mandatory on all named sources. Also note that all participants at Presidium MUN wear credentials with their names prominently displayed. Naturally, all proper names are capitalized.

- National references. When referring to any UN Member State or Observer, standard UN country names should be used. These names match those with which each nation signed the UN Charter. For example, the People's Republic of China should always be referred to as "China." Additionally, some national names are longer than those commonly used. For example, Libya is recognized at the UN as "Libyan Arab Jamahiriya."
- Numerals. Any numeral ten or less should be spelled out in English. Numerals over ten are reported using standard Arabic numerals, such as 2001. Numerals with five or more digits should include commas, such as 1,345,000. Fractions and decimal numbers should be reported.