

# INTERNATIONAL PRESS

STUDY GUIDE



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*Open Agenda*

Dear Delegates,

We are thrilled to welcome you to Mitini MUN 2024 and, in particular, to the International Press Corps (IPC)! The IPC plays a crucial role in our Model United Nations simulation providing a platform for budding journalists to hone their skills and gain invaluable experience in the field of journalism.

Being reporters for the IPC, you enjoy the privileges to define and describe the dynamics and semantics of the bureaucratic discussions and decisions which are to take place during the conference. Your contribution is crucial in influencing the general perception of international politics through removing bias and presenting a clear and holistic view of the events to the public.

Sustainable development is a critical aspect of the theme 'MUN for a Cause'. It highlights the importance of journalism in creating a better informed society and bringing change. Through your articles, you are going to narrate the events and give emphasis to important concerns, provoke the readers into action, and ensure a demand for responsibilities from the key players.

Please, try to get as fully involved into the roles given to you according to the organisational affiliation where you would be a correspondent: The Guardian, Reuters, /Al Jazeera, The New York Times, The Daily Mirror and others. Maintain strong journalistic professional ethics as well as the style of your individual affiliated companies always with a perspective to ensuring that stories developed are truthful, impartial and as interesting as possible. Here you will also find a number of additional tools available to help you in your work, such as guidelines regarding the composition and structure of the articles, the manner and methods in which the articles should be written, and the process of submitting the articles.

We have also provided links about the basics of journalism, the function of news agencies, and research tools for your references.

Let us all work together to use this unique opportunity to nurture your skills and, on one hand, interact with the delegates, and on the other - ensure the success of the conference.

Never forget that what you are writing are not just articles; they are proof that pen indeed holds an amazing power of changing the world.

We are eager to see the results of your research in your articles for the conference!

Best regards,

Nirwan Neupane,

Chair

Sarwesh Man Shrestha,

Vice-Chair

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## ***What is Journalism?***

Journalism is the process of obtaining, evaluating, producing, and disseminating news and information that inform the public (The American Press Institute). Its aim is to act as a link between citizens and the government to facilitate access to information as enshrined in the Right to Information. Through journalism, people are informed on the right steps to take in decision-making processes that affect their community, government, and nation. Being one of the most important components of society, journalism and the media are also known as the ‘Fourth Estate’ of democracy. Besides enlightening the public, they also play the role of watchdogs who monitor those in power and demand accountability. In the UN, journalists collaborate with diplomats to cover decisions and meetings, thereby promoting openness and informing the world.

## ***What is an Open Agenda?***

An open agenda in the context of a Model United Nations (MUN) International Press Corps (IPC) refers to a flexible and dynamic approach where press delegates have the autonomy to choose and cover a wide range of topics and events happening during the conference. This means that instead of being confined to a set list of predetermined subjects, journalists can respond to emerging stories, breaking news, and significant developments as they unfold. This flexibility allows IPC members to engage more deeply with the proceedings, exercise journalistic freedom, and provide diverse and real-time coverage. An open agenda enhances the learning experience by fostering critical thinking, research skills, and adaptability, while also ensuring that the conference receives comprehensive and varied media coverage.

## ***Introduction to the International Press Corps***

Have you ever wanted to participate in Model UN but never wanted to be a delegate and represent a nation? It might be that you have a natural talent for expressing yourself and your opinions through writing and have always wanted to be a journalist but have not yet had the chance to do so. If this is something of interest to you, the International Press Corps (IPC) may well be the organisation for you. Similarly, whilst in other committees delegates deliberate on matters through debating, IPC delegates are journalists from credible news organisations. The goal is to provide a practical, innovative platform to help young journalists and writers in cultivating their talents in the course of a Model United Nations (MUN) simulation. When you become an IPC member, you will be able to report on the debates and resolutions that will take place in the Council and offer comprehensive coverage of the events as well as analytical insights, thus playing an active role in shaping the public's understanding of international politics. At Mitini MUN 2024, you will be allocated to one of the following news agencies: The Guardian / Reuters / Al Jazeera / The New York Times / The Daily Mirror

Just as regular delegates must adhere to their country's foreign policy, IPC delegates must follow the mandate, style, and structure of their assigned news agency. An IPC delegate representing a news agency (The Guardian/Reuters/Al Jazeera etc.) will thereby be assigned to one of the following committees that will be simulated at Mitini MUN 2025: Security Council / UNHRC / CSW / DISEC / Committee of Federal Parliament of Nepal / Islamic Cooperation / Historic Committee / NATO: Futuristic Affairs / CCPCJ Since IPC delegates will be observing and documenting council proceedings, they shall also be expected to provide articles about council proceedings, debates and analysis in an angle that you shall choose depending on the guidelines of the news agency that you are aligned with. The delegates should not allow their own opinions to overshadow these articles and should adhere to the principles of their news organisation.

(i.e.- For example, Al Jazeera journalists will compose their articles in favour of Middle Eastern nations, Fox News looks into a largely conservative American audience etc.) Therefore, the IPC delegates should actively participate, interact with the delegates in the committee they are assigned to and take an interview of the delegates and write their article based on the speeches they hear in the committee, interviews they have taken, and pictures they capture in the middle of the debate. Intelligent humour should also be used in order to increase the interest of the readers.

## **News Agencies**

A few of the news agencies that will be a part of the IPC have been listed below for the delegates to get a general view of how agencies work

**The Guardian** Founded in the May of 1821 by John Edward Taylor, this British newspaper has served the public for over 197 years. In 1936, 'The Trust' was created to secure financial and editorial independence of The Guardian in perpetuity and to safeguard the journalistic freedom, integrity, and liberal values of The Guardian free from commercial or political interference.

*The Guardian's Article Guide:*

<https://www.theguardian.com/books/2008/sep/25/writing.journalism.news>

**Reuters** is an international news agency headquartered in London, United Kingdom, and also one of the largest in the world. It is a division of Thomson Reuters. Until 2008, the Reuters news agency was a part of an independent company, Reuters Group plc, which was also a provider of financial market data

*Reuters Article Guide:*

<https://www.reutersagency.com/en/about/standards-values/>

**Al Jazeera**, meaning "The Island", in Arabic, is a media network that has stated that they are editorially independent of the government of Qatar as the network is funded through loans and grants rather than government subsidies. Launched in 1996, Al Jazeera Arabic was the first independent news channel in the Arab world dedicated to providing comprehensive news and live debate.

*Al Jazeera Article guide:*

<https://network.aljazeera.net/en/our-values/standards#page-17>

**The New York Times** Nicknamed "The Grey Lady", the New York Times has long been regarded within the industry as a national "newspaper of record". The paper's motto, "All the News That's Fit to Print", appears in the upper left-hand corner of the front page. Founded in 1851, the paper has won 125 Pulitzer Prizes, more than any other newspaper.

*The New York times Article guide:*

<https://www.nytimes.com/editorial-standards/ethical-journalism.html>

**The Daily Mirror** is a daily English-language newspaper published in Colombo, Sri Lanka, by Wijeya Newspapers. Its Sunday counterpart is the Sunday Times. Its sister newspaper on financial issues is the Daily FT. Refer to the structure, style, and biases of articles by The Daily Mirror by referring to their website:

<https://www.dailymirror.lk/>

To further gain an understanding of the Daily Mirror's style, analyse, compare, and contrast

## **Article Structure and Composition**

Journalists of the IPC are expected to follow “best practices” & “structures” of journalism to standardise and take your reporting experience during conference up a Notch.

Structure:

- Headlines: These are the text that describe the nature of the article in the header part of the page your heading shall be appealing and pronounce the concrete article you are writing
- By line: Describing the author of the write up, whether an individual or organisation such as newspapers and other information providers
- Sketch/Photograph (Optional, encouraged): A proper caption for the image should be provided
- Place line (Optional): Where the story begins
- Lead: The first part of the article gives background information about the topic. An effective Lead should have no more than 25 words, elaborate, and should contain key information. The perfect lead is the one that introduces the subsequent events or the tone of a production. Avoid incorporating information that is not relevant, going off-topic or reiterating over issues that have already been discussed. Less is more: A clear and straight to the point language is ideal.
- Body: This part is the largest part of the article as it contains the whole story behind the statement made in the lead and will state important details elaborately. Conclude on the matter with a befitting remark & aim at making the reader respond or ask a question.

Tips:

- Introduce sources such as quotations and statistics to verify accuracy.
- Ensure a clear explanation of the 5Ws and H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How).
- Always report in the third person and in active voice.
- Note that the above guidelines are blueprint “best practices” journalists are required to draw from. They may be modified to fit the mandate of the respective news agencies.
- Normal delegates are not permitted to meddle around with electronic devices during committee proceedings but IPC delegates can! Use this to your best advantage.
- Teamwork and spirit: Helping fellow journalists not only makes your conference experience memorable but may or may not contribute to the final news agency-based group award as well.

\*Article format and examples, Nivya MUN 2020\*

<https://www.facebook.com/officialnavyamun/posts/pfbid0oF8UABQxKwdJbQjLZGAKVKtK2rmBcPhJj1LLTwW8nhWCeKFfIhawp2VC3gadcHoWI?rdid=hpSDQqH47snNmkBy>

## **Submissions**

**Deadlines:** Following deadlines is an important aspect of the press. You will be regularly updated on the deadlines by the Heads of IPC and the inability to meet them will have a negative effect on your entire conference experience and final evaluation criterion for awards. Articles must be submitted electronically as a Microsoft Word document (.docx) at the end of each day of the conference.

**Format:** Your articles will be named in the following manner: The name of your article and then your name is separated by a hyphen followed by the name of the news agency you are in.

*i.e: Afghani Forced Labourers in Poland - Regina Phalange (The Guardian)*

In interviews, you shall write the designation of the person and council and then your name for submission. However, your article will have the headline of the most important quote according to you.

*i.e: File submission name - "Interview with Iran (UNHRC) - Regina Phalange" but the headline might be "We believe in capital punishment."*

Articles cannot be edited after submission, and you will be evaluated by what you Submit.

The font size of the article: Times New Roman, Size 12

Word Count: 750 – 1000

Exclusively use for submissions:

nirwanneupaneipsubmissions@gmail.com

sarweshmshresthaipsubmissions@gmail.com

## **Writing Style and Reference**

The following must be kept into account while the delegate prepares articles:

1. Inverted Pyramid Structure: News articles are commonly written in a format known as the "inverted pyramid structure". Start with a lead paragraph that conveys the most essential facts of the story which is then developed into detailed subsequent paragraphs.
2. Emotions: Do not use feel in context to a delegate's Emotions.
3. Research: Proper research regarding the topic you report on can create a powerful article and will ensure the reader you have adequate knowledge on the issue discussed. Anything you choose to write on should always be factually coherent. Feel free to add your own knowledge and readily available information on the internet or other credible sources to back up your claims.
4. Humour: Articles may have an element of humour to them. Humour makes any text more interesting to read, but more importantly, showcases the journalist's skill.
5. Countries: Use the proper name for all countries on the first reference and abbreviations on the second. i.e.- Republic of Korea and Korea
6. Delegates: Never refer to delegates by their name. Use instead, for example, the Delegate of the Republic of Korea on reference and RoK on the second reference.
7. Title: Make sure your article always has a suitable and appropriate title that captures the main focus of the article.
8. Plagiarism and Professionalism: As IPC delegates, you are to never indulge in plagiarism. Articles that are submitted to the Editor-in-Chief has to be original. If any acts of plagiarism are found, the journalist will be suspended immediately. Note that your eligibility for awards will be disrupted in the case plagiarism is detected during the marking process. To be professional means to adhere to all basic ethics and never let your personal feelings towards any Delegate/Country/Delegation/Person affect your reports. You are to remain unbiased and represent the interest of your assigned media outlet.
9. Smart Reporting: Do not report the proceedings of your assigned committee word to word. Pay attention to what happens in the committee and select one important topic as the centre of your report. Focus on the interesting bits because not everything has to be reported. Be analytical. Think critically.
10. Flow: Establishing "flow" is one of the creative areas of the writing process. Journalists are expected to combine their research with varied wording and sentencing structure in order to communicate ideas clearly and further engage the reader.
11. Style and Tone: Make sure there is a balance between formal and informal tone. Positive constructions should be used.
12. Word Count: Stick to it.

## **Press Statements**

Typical delegates have Foreign Policy Statements (FPS). IPC delegates have Press Statements! The key to writing the ideal press statement or any news article lies with the ability to grab the reader's attention with a captivating headline and an informative yet concise lead paragraph. Press statements will emulate a general news article format, using the inverse pyramid structure and IPC delegates are to choose one out of other topics chosen by the Heads of IPC to report on.

Your article should be in line with your news agency's mandate and biases.

Delegates are expected to refer to the mandate and articles of their relevant news agencies to get a thorough understanding of their writing style.

*Points to keep in mind:*

- *No personal opinions should be included in your press statement. Opinions of the respective news agencies can be used.*
- *Journalism, not creative writing: This article should be reported strictly in a factual sense. Make sure to keep things interesting with sound conduct in language.*

*However, avoid overusing too many adjectives, flowery words, and euphemisms.*

- *Always verify the details of your article and cross check the facts and statistics provided by you in your report.*
- *Delegates are encouraged to bring their research notes.*
- *All press statements should be submitted electronically.*

## **Research Methodology**

The confines of an in-house conference limit us to what we want to call investigative journalism, but your preparations will be severe. You can use the following guidelines for effective research. You must be adequately prepared to understand the debate

- Go through the backgrounds for a basic understanding of the agenda and the documents and links it mentions. The background guide can be obtained from the website of the conference.
- Read about the agenda and various perspectives on it. Aid and form an opinion.
- Understanding the legal, social, cultural, and economic implications of the debate.
- Read about the foreign policy and agenda perspective of nations that you might think will majorly impact the debate.
- Access the quality of research required through [www.aljazeera.com](http://www.aljazeera.com) and see how the research and content are balanced.

## ***Closing Remarks: Tips for further reading***

We aim to maintain the exact freedoms of reporters through the utilisation of a set of codes and policies that will make them aware of boundaries they shouldn't cross whilst writing reports. The code of ethics will outline a reporter's boundaries in which you should feel comfortable to write in. The committee allows the privilege of leaving and entering which is not granted to everyone so make sure to use it properly while maintaining respect for the other committees that will be in session. Make sure to not disturb other committees as it may disrupt their flow.

### **TIPS:**

- Research on the agendas of committees beforehand in order to be clear and have a better understanding of their agenda and the politics that will stem from them.
- Focus on asking open-ended questions that allow for the production of interesting quotations and give the subject a chance to explain themselves properly.
- Keep your sentences concise and informative.
- Accuracy is a must. Be sure to double check before making any factual statements or questions.
- Reporters are highly encouraged to read news articles in order to get a general idea of the style of writing
- Depending on the article's topic, the introduction must be either clever and witty if it is light hearted or serious if it is of "breaking news" character. It must be direct and to the point.
- Interviews must contain information on the person being interviewed. You must ask for consent before using their information as well.
- Structure must be maintained in articles.
- Factor in your audience when you are writing your articles.
- Articles should be eye-catching while being concise and informative.

- Abbreviations: No periods should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organisation or agency. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used.
- Currency: Dollar values are displayed with the appropriate currency symbol. Values on orders at or greater than one million are summarised, for example, \$54,000, \$135,000, or \$214 million. Sri Lankan Rupees shall be written as LKR and not Rs. 1
- Books and Print Sources: Names of all books and print sources should be capitalised and italicised, such as The Newsletter, The 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."
- Names: Verbal verification is mandatory on all named sources. Naturally, all proper names are Capitalised.
- Numerals: Any numeral ten or less should be spelled out in English. Numerals over ten are reported using standard Arabic numerals, such as 2001.
- Quotations: All quoted statements within articles should be incorporated grammatically into the sentence being written. Additional capitalizations should be avoided. If only part of a sentence is being used in a quotation, an ellipsis (i.e.: ...) should be used to indicate the omitted portions of the statement. If the ellipsis comes at the end of a sentence, it should have a period in the end as well within the quotation marks ("....") to indicate the conclusion of a sentence. If within a quotation, the speaker uses an abbreviation or reference which would be unclear to the reader, the Reporter may interject a clarification within brackets (i.e.: [...]). This indicates that the bracketed information is not a direct quotation; rather it is a clarification on the part of the author.
- As illustrations of these rules, consider the following example: Dr. Kwon mentioned that "...though the research is ongoing at the WHO, there is a dedication by the organisation, such as through the WHO Health Emergencies Programme, to respond to global health crises."
- UN Titles: These titles are not abbreviated. UN and Mitini MUN official titles include Secretary-General, UnderSecretary-General, Director, Head/s of (xyz). SecretaryGeneral shall never be abbreviated as Sec Gen.

## ***Further Reading***

Glossary:

<https://www.thenewsmanual.net/Resources/glossary.html#:~:text=blown%20quote%3A%20Se,e%20pull-out,emphasise%20a%20word%20or%20phrase>

Expected standard of integrity and ethics:

<https://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>

Expected reporting style:

<https://www.webwisewording.com/inverted-pyramid/>

IPC as a committee:

<https://bestdelegate.com/a-guide-to-model-un-press-corps-committees/>

MUN proceedings:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhFfZSkMp2s&ab\\_channel=Pulse.lk](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=zhFfZSkMp2s&ab_channel=Pulse.lk)