

International Press

BACKGROUND GUIDE



Epistemo

Letter from the Executive Board

Greetings members of the International Press!

It is my absolute pleasure to welcome you all as a part of the International Press Team at the Epistemo MUN, 2022. I look forward to facilitating an intense mind - boggling experience that will always be cherished. The International Press is the binding force between the people and their rulers. Further, it is also a medium for unspoken words and unvoiced opinions. As the Executive Board of the International Press, I would like to draw your attention to the seriousness and significance of the responsibility you are about to assume. As a Model UN conference is a simulation of the United Nations conference, we must understand that every member of the conference is playing a particular role, including the Press members. Hence, as a journalist, a certain amount of professionalism is essential, and you are required to adhere to the highest standards of diplomacy and transparency. Always remember that you are a part of a team. Individual competition aside, our primary goal is to procure resourceful articles for a decent and informative newsletter.

We are in this together!

That being said, this is to bring to your notice a surprise element awaiting you at the conference: "Always expect the unexpected".

Our vision is to ensure that this is a learning experience, and we hope to embark upon this journey creating a magnificent fusion of words and experiences. There will be obstacles in your path, but to learn, you've to be willing to push yourself. In the words of William H Gass, 'The true alchemists do not change lead into gold; they change the world into words.' I hope you have an amazing experience!

Practice like you've never won; perform like you've never lost!
Looking forward to an engaging conference, and to working with
all of you.

Feel free to get in touch in case of any queries.

Regards,
Mahveen Fatima
Head of IP

About the International Press

The International Press (IP) is neither a traditional committee of the United Nations nor an authentic part of any of the other UN committees. Here, the IP refers to the collection of international press agencies that gather from all the corners of the world to report on the activities of the proceedings of various United Nations committees.

One of the most important tasks that journalists in the International Press perform is formal reporting. They are primarily required to cover the event and describe it to others in the best thought-out and concise way possible, and for this purpose, they are supposed to take notes and submit articles that contain the major discussions in their respective councils. A good news article ought to be articulate, brief and be able to convey the very essence of any discussion.

There are three things which come as a part and parcel of any International Press Team at a Model UN Conference simulation.

- **RESEARCH:** Comprehensive research forms the basic framework of the art of reporting. A journalist in a committee needs to be well informed, rather better equipped with their research since it is not going to be country specific. Half-baked knowledge on the agendas reflects factual inconsistency in the articles. Kindly go through the background guides of your respective committees to have a better understanding of the agenda. Knowledge of current debates pertaining to the agenda is also encouraged.

- **UNITY:** The International Press team will consist of a number of reporters, who need to be working in synchronization with each other. The spirit of competitiveness should never come in the way of teamwork, and all the efforts should be to publish a prosperous newsletter.
- **CODE OF CONDUCT:** Reporters are expected to maintain diplomatic courtesy at all times towards fellow members of the team, delegates, executive board and the Secretariat. Even while critically looking at council proceedings; it is imperative that respect be extended to the delegates. Frivolous reporting, like reporting on a delegate's attire or manner of speaking, is highly discouraged.

TYPES OF SUBMISSIONS OPINIONATED EDITORIAL

OPINION EDITORIAL (OP-ED):

An Opinion editorial (Op-Ed) is an article that appears opposite the editorial page of practically all newspapers. This is a place where the writer gets an opportunity to pen down his/her perspective on the agenda. Research is of utmost importance and opinions must be backed by relevant facts. These are one of the most impactful articles and creativity here is boundless.

Word Limit - 500 to 600 words

BEAT:

A beat-based article is a specialized article where the Reporter presents an in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise. It involves an assessment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat is a central idea around which the contents of the article revolve. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. Requiring clear observations and grasping power, beats should be devoid of the reporter's opinion.

Word Limit - 250 to 350 words

CREATIVE PIECE / FEATURES:

'But out of limitations, comes creativity.' This is the only submission where the reporters are allowed to explore any format of their own, could be in the form of poetry, a diary entry, etc. Ensure that it adheres to the agenda of the respective committee.

Word limit - 300 to 500 words

INTERVIEW:

This provides an opportunity for direct interaction with one or more representatives. The questions must be precise and must be verified by the Executive Board of the International Press. The format should be that of a report. Reporters are to ensure that the essence of the views put forth remain intact.

Word Limit - 350 to 500 words

PRESS CONFERENCE

The Press Conference is another opportunity for the reporters to ask the representatives about any of their statements or policies in the committee. Reporters must establish dialogue with the representatives and are required to adhere to diplomatic courtesy. Decorum and composure regardless of the situation must be maintained. Moreover, facts must be derived from credible sources; if challenged, the burden of proof rests on the reporter.

SUBMISSION DEADLINES

All reporters are expected to strictly adhere to the deadlines allotted to them. The deadlines for each day will be notified at the beginning of the first session for the day.

RULES AND REGULATIONS

- Reporters are required to adhere to our Lingua Franca, British English.
- Formatting Guidelines:
 - Font - Times New Roman
 - Size - Title - 14 points, Bold
 - By - line - 13 points, Italics Body - 12 points
 - Alignment - Justified
 - By - lines are mandatory for all types of submissions.
 - The submission files should be in the format "Name_Type of submission_Committee_Day"
- Example: Mahveen_Beat_Who_1

- Abbreviations are to be used only once they have been introduced. For example, A Life sentence in the United Kingdom (UK) does not necessarily mean a prisoner will spend the rest of their days in prison.
- Plagiarism will be dealt with strictly. Cite your sources and references without fail.
- Refrain from referring to a delegate by his/her/their name. Address them by the profile/country they are representing. For example, 'The Delegate of India highlighted the mass influx of refugees into the country post the Rohingya Crisis'
- Deadlines are of prime importance. In the words of William Shakespeare, 'Better three hours too soon than a minute too late.'
- Stick to the timeline of your committee. If your committee is based on an event in history, adhere to the time period of that event.
- Avoid using contractions in sentences. For example, use 'do not' instead of 'don't', 'cannot' instead of 'can't'.
- Sentences must be well punctuated with the inclusion of semicolons, full stops, apostrophes, and hyphens/dashes wherever necessary.
- Diplomatic courtesy must be maintained while reporting. Ensure that negative language used by any representative is expressed very subtly without offending anybody.
- In your articles, refrain from mentioning insignificant instances like, 'The Board entertained a motion to break for lunch.', basically immaterial things which are not helpful to the conference.

MARKING SCHEME

The following parameters would be taken into account for marking the journalists:

- Punctuality in submission of articles
- Quality of research
- Quality of content in your article
- Grammatical consistency
- Originality
- Appropriateness of title and formatting
- Your hold on the committee during the press conference

Note: - This is just a brief of the marking scheme. The original marking scheme is much more comprehensive. The marking of an individual is done by taking an average of all their articles.

ALL THE BEST JOURNALISTS!!!