

STUDY GUIDE



ROTARACT MORA
MUN

SLRMUN 24



INTERNATIONAL
PRESS

UNITED NATIONS

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CONFERENCE

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What is Journalism?

Journalism is the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting accurate facts and information to the general public (The American Press Institute). Its purpose is to actively engage in society as a middleman that bridges the people with governing bodies to enable the Right to Information among citizens. It helps guide the people in making quintessential decisions that affect not only themselves but also their community, government, and the nation as a whole.

Journalism and the Media are indispensable and are thereby referred to as the “Fourth Estate” of the Democratic process as it not only informs and educates the public but simultaneously act as a watchdog, enabling a system of checks and balances, keeping those in authority in line, urging and ensuring accountability.

In the United Nations, journalists collaborate with diplomats and report on the resolutions adopted and conference proceedings.

Introduction

Booklets are printed materials with four or more pages, containing details about a business, event, product, promotion, etc. They are also known as catalogs or pamphlets, and are usually created to communicate a message to a wide variety of audiences. Need more ideas?

Create an outline of the important sections you want to include in your booklet. Businesses often include their vision and mission, in addition to their yearly goals and metrics. For an event booklet, include the day's schedule or a list of speakers. Shops also hand out catalogs, listing their products and prices. What's important is that you know the purpose of your booklet, and from there, you'll have millions of ideas ready! Whether you're creating a compilation of your recipes or showcasing your latest promotions, just create a good balance of content and you're on your way to a clear, effective booklet. Creating the perfect balance is key.

Maybe you've always been interested in foreign affairs and international relations but felt like being a delegate representing a nation wasn't for you. Perhaps you have a better knack for expressing your point of view through the written word. Have you found journalism interesting and never found an outlet to try your hand at it?

If this sounds like you, the International Press Corps might be for you. Similar to how delegates representing a country engage in open debate in other committees, IPC delegates are journalists who represent news agencies. Our goal is to provide aspiring journalists and budding writers the unique opportunity to put their skills to good use, in the backdrop of the hustle and bustle of a MUN conference.

At SLRMUN 2024, you will be allocated to one of the following news agencies:

- The Guardian
- Al Jazeera
- CGTN
- News 1st

- Similar to how regular delegates are required to adhere to their foreign policy, IPC delegates are required to follow their news agency mandate, style, and structure, and play the role of a journalist belonging to the respective news agency.

- An IPC delegate representing a news agency (News 1st/CGTN/Al-Jazeera/The Guardian) will thereby be assigned to one of the following committees that will be simulated at SLRMUN 2024

- UNSC
- UNGA 4

- UNHRC
- UNEP
- UNCSW

While IPC delegates are required to observe and report council proceedings, they will also be expected to produce enticing articles full of debate analysis at a news angle of your choice within the guidelines and alignment of your news agency's mandate.

Delegates must take it upon themselves to remain unbiased of their personal opinions when forming these articles, staying true to their news agency's biases. (i.e.- For example, Al Jazeera journalists will compose their articles in favor of Middle Eastern nations, Fox News looks into a largely conservative American audience etc.)

IPC delegates are encouraged to engage, interact and interview the delegates in their committee and compile their article with quotations from committee proceedings, interviews as well as pictures captured mid-debate. Using intelligent humor is encouraged to boost readership appeal.

News Agencies

The Guardian

The guardian is a globally trusted, British daily news provider, published in print, digital media and across online platforms. Founded in 1821, The Guardian is best known for its investigative journalism, free of political and commercial influence. It adopts a clear, concise style of writing, backed by statistical research, making it one of the most trusted news providers. The tone utilized by The Guardian is neutral and bold, emphasizing on information most supported by its investigative research. The Guardian avoids sensationalism and adheres strictly to its influence-free policy, based on factual evidence. As a service provider for a diverse global audience, The Guardian ensures that multiple perspectives are considered, and its reporting is independent.

For a more comprehensive understanding of The Guardian's reporting style, please refer to the link below: <https://www.theguardian.com/uk>

Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera is a leading Arabic-language news and current affairs broadcaster, headquartered in Doha, Qatar. Founded in 1996, it has grown to become one of the largest media organizations in the Arab world. Al Jazeera's writing style is characterized by its in-depth coverage of international news, with a focus on the Middle East. The writing is straightforward, factual, and seeks to provide multiple perspectives on a story. The tone is balanced and neutral, striving for objectivity in its reporting. Al Jazeera is known for its commitment to impartial journalism and its willingness to tackle sensitive and controversial topics. The network's commitment to providing independent, trusted and accurate news has made it a respected voice in the Arab world and beyond.

Al Jazeera Guide and Code of Ethics: <https://network.aljazeera.net/en/our-values/standards#page-17>

CGTN

China Global Television Network (CGTN) is a Beijing-based news channel, offering news coverage from around the world, with a special emphasis on China's perspective on international affairs. Operating under China's largest state-owned media network, China Central Television (CCTV), CGTN aims to provide an informative view of the world, while promoting China's interests and values. It is renowned for its special coverage of internal and external challenges faced by China. CGTN articles and broadcasts typically feature a mix of text, images and video in its reporting, earning critical acclaim from its global audience. CGTN's style of reporting is characterized by the use of straightforward, informative language and follows a clear, accessible writing style, making it a valuable source of news and information for viewers around the world.

For a more comprehensive understanding of CGTN's reporting style, and the inclusion of statistics, images and headlines, please refer to the link below: <https://www.cgtn.com>

News 1st

News 1st is a Sri Lankan news organization, established in 2005, that provides television and online news coverage to a nationwide audience. News 1st is known for its fast-paced and energetic reporting style, with a focus on breaking news and current events. The writing style is straightforward and to-the-point, with a focus on delivering information in a clear and concise manner. The tone is often sensational, designed to capture the attention of viewers and keep them engaged with the latest developments. News 1st strives to provide comprehensive and impartial coverage of events, with a focus on issues that impact the Sri Lankan public. With its energetic and fast-paced reporting, News 1st has become a popular source of news and information for Sri Lankans.

Refer to the structure, style and biases of News First by visiting their website: [https://
english.newsfirst.lk/](https://english.newsfirst.lk/)

Theme for SLRMUN'24

“Threats to the lives of journalists reporting from ground zero and the war crime of deliberately targeting members of the media”

SLRMUN'24 expects to inculcate the theme “Threats to the lives of journalists reporting from ground zero and the war crime of deliberately targeting members of the media” in this year’s conference.

Late 2023 and the beginning of 2024 have seen an unprecedented increase in attacks deliberately targeting journalists despite this being a war crime according to the Geneva Conventions. The threat goes beyond obstruction to the freedom of speech and endangers the lives of journalists and their families. This practice also threatens the public’s right to accurate information and trespasses the safety and integrity of journalists.

Protecting members of the media is a crucial duty of and an essential cornerstone for building a democratic, intelligent society.

Article Structure and Composition

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

Structure:

1. **HEADLINE**- The headline is the text indicating the nature of the article below it , your headline should be captivating and specific to the article you are composing.
2. **BY LINE**- Authorship and news agency.
3. **SKETCH OR PHOTOGRAPH (OPTIONAL)**- Suitable caption should be included.
4. **PLACE LINE (OPTIONAL)** - Where the story begins.
5. **LEAD**- Opening section of the article. The Lead should be less than 25 words, interesting, and convey the most important information. The ideal lead will set the tone for what follows. Do not try to cram unnecessary information, digress, or become repetitive. Conciseness and simplicity are key.
6. **BODY**- This is the main section of the article, containing the whole story and will elaborate on the important information stated in the lead. End it with an appropriate closing remark & try to instigate a reaction or question from your reader ^[1]_[SEP]

TIPS:

1. Introduce sources such as quotations and statistics to verify accuracy.
2. Ensure a clear explanation of the 5Ws and H (Who, What, Where, When, Why, and How).
3. Always report in the third person and in active voice.
4. 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.
5. Normal delegates are not permitted to meddle around with electronic devices during committee proceedings, but IPC delegates can! Use this to your best advantage.
6. 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.

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. [SEP]

Article Format:

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

i.e: North Korean Forced Labourers in Poland - Deshara Perera (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) - Deshara Perera" 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.

- Font: Times New Roman,
- Size: 12
- Word Count: 500 - 750

Writing styles and references

Please keep the following points in mind while writing your 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. **HUMOR** - Articles may have an element of humor to them. Humor 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.- the 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 have 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 for word. Pay attention to what happens in the committee and select one important topic as the center 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 tones. Positive constructions should be used.
12. **WORD COUNT** - Stick to it.

Press Statements

Delegates will be given three days to collect their research on a topic of their choice. The Press Statement will be written before the conference via a virtual platform, and it will be required for all delegates to switch their camera on throughout the **three** hours given to write their Press Statements. Please note that researching during the time allocated for you to write your Press Statement and plagiarism will not be tolerated and will result in disqualification.

Each delegate will be required to submit a Press Statement on one of the following topics.

1. South Africa's prosecution of Israel at ICJ on charges of genocide against Palestinians; Israel and its allies continue assertions that there is no genocide.
2. Military tension in the Red Sea and its impact on the global economy.
3. IMF loan to Lanka, but will it rebuild the country? High taxes and struggling citizens lead to intelligence migration.

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

- Font: Times New Roman
- Size 12
- Word Count: 750 - 1000

Preparation

IPC journalists should thoroughly study the study guide and the mandate of their respective committee. You should do thorough research on the Practice Debate and conference topics and have a good knowledge of your respective news agency.

IPC journalists must bring their own laptop/tablet, pen drive, necessary stationery, and other materials they may need. Make sure to inform the Heads of IPC regarding any issues regarding devices beforehand. Efforts would only be made to attend to the necessary accordingly. If you wish to take photographs or record videos to support your written work, you must bring your own equipment to do so.

Please take care of your electronic devices and other valuables, SLRMUN 2023 will not be held liable in the event of damage, loss, or theft.

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 then 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 and see how the research and content are balanced.

Awards

Individual Awards:

1. **BEST JOURNALIST:** Awarded to the delegate with highest overall mark from individual articles (Press statement, Articles on the day of the conference)
2. **BEST PRESS STATEMENT:** Awarded to the highest scored press statement.
3. **HONORARY MENTION:** Awarded to the delegate with the second-highest overall mark from individual articles.

Group Awards:

1. **OUTSTANDING NEWS AGENCY:** Awarded to the news agency with the overall highest total score. (Based on the total points of each delegate in the relevant agency for their individual articles and group article)

****By the end of the conference, you would have written a minimum of the following articles:**

- The Press Statement (Graded, Applicable for awards)
- Article I (Conference Day) (Graded, Applicable for awards)

Failure to submit the above mandatory articles will eliminate your chances of receiving awards.

Conclusion

In order to maintain the exact freedoms given to reporters, a set of codes and policies will make it less likely for them to cross this boundary. The code of ethics outlines your boundaries, within which you should feel comfortable to work in. Being able to enter and leave the committee at any time is a privilege, not granted to everyone, and should be respected. Do not disrupt the flow of any committee for it may cause inconvenience to the delegates and the Chairs.

TIPS:

- Read other committee background guides before entering the conference, so as to have a better understanding of their agenda and the politics that will stem from them.
- Avoid asking yes-or-no questions, as these probably won't produce very interesting quotations. Leave your questions open-ended and give your subject the chance to explain himself in his own words.
- Keep your sentences concise and informative.
- Accuracy is crucial. Facts, Quotes, and Names must be double-checked.
- Reporters are advised to read news articles in order to get a general idea of the style of writing.
- An article's introduction may be clever or witty, given that the subject is lighthearted. However, a more serious subject, that is of 'breaking news' character, should be treated with the same seriousness; direct and to-the-point.
- Whenever you take interviews or use delegates' names in your reports, make sure the involved persons are aware of the fact that their names or statements are being used.
- Keep a dictionary at hand.
- Maintain structure in your articles. Use punctuation appropriately and break your article down into concise paragraphs.
- Know your audience and write accordingly.

ABBREVIATIONS: No periods should be used separating letters of an abbreviated organization or agency. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used. (i.e: SLRMUN, UNSC, UNHRC,WHO, NATO, ICJ, USSR, UK, USA)

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. Sri Lankan Rupees shall be written as LKR and not Rs. 18

BOOKS AND PRINT SOURCES: Names of all books and print sources should be capitalized and italicized, 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 Capitalized.

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 at 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 an illustration of these rules, consider the following example: Amb. Deshara explained that “...while the matters are being studied by the UN, there is a commitment by the UN, such as the UNV [United Nations Volunteers], to take part in conflict zones.

SPELLING: Reporters should be sure to spell-check all articles before the editorial deadline. This will greatly assist the Editor.

UN TITLES: These titles are not abbreviated. UN and SLRMUN official titles include Secretary-General, Under Secretary-General, Director, Head/s of (xyz). Secretary-General shall never be abbreviated as Sec Gen.

RESOURCE LINKS FOR FURTHER READING

- For a glossary of Journalist terms:
<https://www.journalism.co.uk/glossary.shtml>
- To understand the expected standard of integrity and ethics:
<http://www.journalismdegree.com/ethics/>
- For an in-depth analysis of the expected reporting style:
<https://www.webwisewording.com/inverted-pyramid/>
- More information on the IPC Committee:
<https://bestdelegate.com/a-guide-to-model-un-presscorps-committees/>
- To brush up your knowledge on MUN proceedings:
How To Model United Nations by Pulse <https://youtu.be/zhFfZSkMp2>