

INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS



STUDY GUIDE



SLRMUN '26

Sri Lanka Rotaract Model
United Nations VI

February 2026

INTRODUCTION TO JOURNALISM

Journalism is defined as the activity of gathering, assessing, creating, and presenting news and information to the public. The word journalism is derived from the Latin word ‘diurnalis’ which means daily, hence why journalism is the transmission of everyday information such as sounds, images and words.

At its core, journalism is about informing people about what is happening around them in a clear and accurate way. Journalists use words, images, videos and sound to communicate events to the general public.

Good journalism pertains to reporting what happened, as well as helping readers understand why it matters, by translating complex discussions into articles that the public can understand.

WHAT IS THE INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS?

The primary function of the International Press Corps (IPC) is to act as a simulated team of journalists, reporters, photographers, videographers and/or other media professionals who document and report on the proceedings of the Model UN (MUN) conference. As a way of mirroring real-world media organisations, delegates/journalists of the IPC serve as observers and correspondents within the MUN structure.

The simulation of the International Press Corps (IPC) at MUN conferences such as Sri Lanka Rotaract MUN (SLRMUN’26) adds a sense of realism and immersion, enhancing the experience by offering a multimedia and real-time perspective of the events taking place during committee meetings. In addition, IPC also adds to the educational aspect of the conference whilst creating a more dynamic and engaging environment for delegates and IPC journalists to interact to accomplish their various tasks.

THE TECHNICALITIES OF IPC AT SLRMUN’26

As a journalist in the International Press Corps at SLRMUN’26, you will be assigned to a news agency and a committee, and will report on committee proceedings within the mandate of your news agency. You will be allocated to one of the following news agencies:

- Cable News Network (CNN)
- British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)
- Al-Jazeera
- Ada Derana

Additionally, you will be assigned to one of the following committees during the conference:

- General Assembly 3 (GA3)
- United Nations Security Council (UNSC)
- United Nations Environment Program (UNEP)
- United Nations Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC)
- General Assembly 1 (GA1)

TIMELINE

Practice Debate	Conference Day 1	Conference Day 2
31/01/2026	14/02/2026	15/02/2026
Press statement writing	Article writing	News agency activity

EXPLAINING MEDIA BIAS AND ANGLES

WHAT IS AN ANGLE?

An angle is a specific perspective that you can choose to write your article on. Rather than a broader narrative, it focuses on ***one key incident or case***. This is dependent on the agency's mandate and editorial bias, and determines what part of the debate you focus on and how the story is framed.

In the International Press Corps, it is highly encouraged to pick a specific angle during debate to base your article on, as committees often discuss a multitude of topics. Instead of covering everything that happens in a committee, clearly picking an angle allows you to focus on one incident, argument or development and explore it in depth.

Choosing a clear angle helps make your article more engaging and structured, rather than vague or overloaded with information. It is essential that your angle always aligns with your agency's bias and mandate. The same debate can be reported very differently depending on whether the focus is on human rights, security concerns, economic impact, or political situations.

For example, if a committee is discussing climate change, you could choose to focus on a developing nation's concerns about climate financing. However, this topic must be brought up during debate.

Under this angle, your article might highlight a delegate's speech calling out the lack of financial support from developed countries, and any proposed solutions mentioned in the committee.

By selecting a strong angle, you guide the reader toward a particular interpretation of events while still remaining factually accurate. As journalists, your role is to decide what is most important and newsworthy to your audience, and whether or not your story is in line with your agency's mandate.

WHAT IS MEDIA BIAS?

The word "media bias" refers to the way news coverage, such as articles, editorials, etc, is influenced by the ownership, funding, political interest, cultural values or target audiences, thus shaping the way stories are ***selected, framed and reported on.***

Below is a list of different types of agency bias and what its influence has on news.

LEFT	LEAN-LEFT	CENTRE	LEAN-RIGHT	RIGHT
Left media bias refers to the tendency of the media to cover or put emphasis on more progressive, liberal and/or left-wing biases. Left-wing coverage often highlights issues involving social justice such as women's rights, LGBTQIA+ ideas and often supports ethnic minorities.	Lean left (or left centre) refers to pieces that has more moderate coverage of progressive, liberal and/or left-wing biases. Left-leaning coverage is similar to left coverage however, the issues portrayed are less extreme.	Centre media bias refers to coverage that includes a more balanced perspective. This means news coverage often has a mix of traditional left and right viewpoints. However, news agencies with a centre bias are not entirely objective.	Right-leaning (or right centre) refers to pieces that have more moderate coverage of more traditional/conservative ideas/ Right-leaning coverage is similar to right media pieces however, the issues portrayed are less extreme.	Right media bias refers to the tendency of the media to emphasise more traditional and conservative viewpoints. Right-wing coverage typically highlights social conservatism and is usually in support of government polices.

WAYS TO IDENTIFY MEDIA BIAS

In order to follow your agency's mandate as accurately as possible, you must first understand how to identify its mandate. In order to do this accurately, ask yourself the following questions:

1. *Context: Is it presented accurately, or has information been omitted?*
2. *Language: How does the use of words influence the judgment of the event?*
3. *Bias: Who benefits or carries the loss from this framing?*

NEWS AGENCIES AT SLRMUN'26



Cable News Network (CNN)

CNN (Cable News Network) was founded in 1980 by Ted Turner and was the world's first 24-hour news channel. Based in Atlanta, it has grown into a major global news organisation with extensive international coverage across television and digital platforms.

CNN's writing style is generally clear and accessible, aimed at a broad global audience. Articles usually begin with a strong lead, followed by context, expert quotes, and supporting data. The tone is professional and explanatory, though more emotive language is often used in human-interest stories and crisis reporting to engage readers.

In terms of bias, CNN is often described as having a centre-left leaning bias, particularly in US political coverage. Critics point to framing and source selection as areas where bias may appear, while CNN states it follows journalistic standards and separates opinions from straight news.

Website: <https://edition.cnn.com/>



British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC)

BBC News is one of the world's most well-known and influential news organisations, operating under the British Broadcasting Corporation. Established in 1922, it acts as the United Kingdom's national public broadcaster. Its mandate is to inform, educate, and serve the public interest through accurate and impartial reporting. As a publicly funded broadcaster, the BBC follows the principle of due impartiality, meaning it aims to represent a range of perspectives without promoting a single ideological stance.

The BBC's writing style is clear, structured, and explanatory. Articles often include background context, expert commentary, and careful attribution of sources, hence why the news organisation is praised for its credibility and comprehensive coverage. Their writing tone is measured and professional, often avoiding sensational or emotionally charged language.

While generally considered centrist with a neutral stance, BBC News has been criticised from multiple sides for perceived bias, which highlights the challenges of maintaining neutrality in complex global issues.

Website: <https://www.bbc.com/news>



Ada Derana

Ada Derana is a Sri Lanka-based news organisation known for its fast-paced and accessible reporting. Launched in 2014, Ada Derana provides both Sinhala and English coverage and is a popular news source for islandwide updates. It primarily focuses on domestic politics, public affairs, crime, and national developments, with an emphasis on immediacy and clarity. Its main mandate is to inform the public quickly, making it a popular source for breaking news.

The writing style of Ada Derana is simple and direct, using short paragraphs and straightforward vocabulary. Articles typically follow a strict inverted pyramid structure, delivering key facts immediately with minimal to moderate background and analysis. The tone is formal and factual, and articles often rely on official statements from government authorities, police, or public institutions.

While Ada Derana claims editorial neutrality, it is often perceived as pro-establishment, particularly in its domestic political coverage. It emphasises development and sovereignty as part of its nationalist stance. This is reflected not through overt opinion but through framing choices, source selection, and limited critical engagement with state narratives.

International stories are often covered through a Sri Lankan lens, and articles emphasise global issues that directly impact the country, ranging from climate conditions to trade relations.

Website: <https://www.adaderana.lk>



Al Jazeera

Al Jazeera was founded in 1996 in Doha, Qatar, and has grown into a major international news network, especially influential in the Middle East and the Global South. Originally launched as an Arabic-language channel, it gained attention for challenging state-controlled media and offering alternative perspectives.

Al Jazeera's writing style is known for being detailed and context-driven, often focusing on historical background and the human impact of events. Its coverage frequently highlights voices from affected communities rather than only political elites, especially in conflict reporting. This approach gives its articles an analytical tone with strong emphasis on humanitarian consequences.

In terms of bias, Al Jazeera is often seen as critical of Western foreign policy and Israel, while being less critical of Qatar. Critics argue this bias appears through framing and story selection, whereas supporters see it as offering perspectives often overlooked by Western media. Like most news agencies, its bias is more about emphasis and framing than factual inaccuracy.

Website: <https://www.aljazeera.com/>

PRESS STATEMENT WRITING

Press statements are detailed, factual research pieces that follow the general news article format of an agency and are traditionally written during the Practice Debate. These articles act as an agency's stance on the issue or event being reported, making press statements a direct reflection of the agency's bias and mandate.

Journalists will be provided with 3 to 5 topics before the Practice Debate and must select one topic and write a 900-1000-word piece based on their chosen topic. Journalists will have 4 hours to write and submit their press statements to the given emails on the day of the Practice Debate. During this time, journalists will NOT be allowed to conduct research or have any internet access until their deadline. All necessary research must be completed before the Practice Debate and brought as either hard copies or saved as a PDF file.

The essence of a press statement should be well-researched, factual and a lengthy article that replicates every aspect of an agency's article, including the agency's writing style, mandate and presentation.

NOTE: *Sample press statements may be found in the “feature article” tab of your agency.*

IMPORTANT POINTS TO KEEP IN MIND

- ❖ Press statements do NOT have anything to do with the committee the journalists are assigned to; therefore, their content should be completely INDEPENDENT from committee proceedings.
- ❖ Press statements are NOT opinion pieces; therefore, journalists cannot include personal opinions in their press statements. They must always write based on their agency's biases and leniencies. However, previous statements and opinions made by the news agency may be included as they fit the agency's mandate.
- ❖ The use of first-person narration, second-person narration, and informal language is NOT allowed.

Press statement writing makes journalists eligible for the “BEST PRESS STATEMENT” award. Therefore, Practice Debate will be mandatory for all IPC delegates.

ARTICLE WRITING

Article writing is one of the most pivotal parts of the Press Corps, and at its core is the purpose of keeping the readers informed. On the first day of the conference, IPC delegates are required to write a news article based on the proceedings of their assigned committee. Journalists are expected to observe committee debate, pick an angle and write an article that effectively converts the discussion into a form that can be easily digested by readers.

The purpose of the Day 1 article is to inform the public about committee proceedings, while framing the story through the perspective of the assigned news agency. Since articles are written

under time pressure, clarity and accuracy are prioritised over lengthy analysis. Articles typically have a word count of 600-800 words.

A well-written article strives to focus on one specific angle, as aforementioned, and provide in-depth reporting by including any necessary context and explanations. For example, in security committees, any technical language and terminology can be defined, and background information can be given for the reader's benefit.

As with all written pieces, brevity is key, so omitting unnecessary information and deciding what to include in your article is a strong skill journalists should have.

While research can be used to write your article, it should primarily remain focused on what actually happened in the committee. The general rule is that 70% should be primary information, like conference data, analysis of debate, and interviews. The remaining 30% should consist of research from external sources, like any information gathered on the situation from the Internet.

Article writing makes journalists eligible for the “BEST JOURNALIST” award.

ARTICLE STRUCTURE

A typical news article consists of the following parts, though this may vary depending on each agency's style and formatting:

1. Headline

This is the title of the article. An interesting headline helps grab your reader's attention, but it is important to stick to your agency's mandate and style.

2. Byline

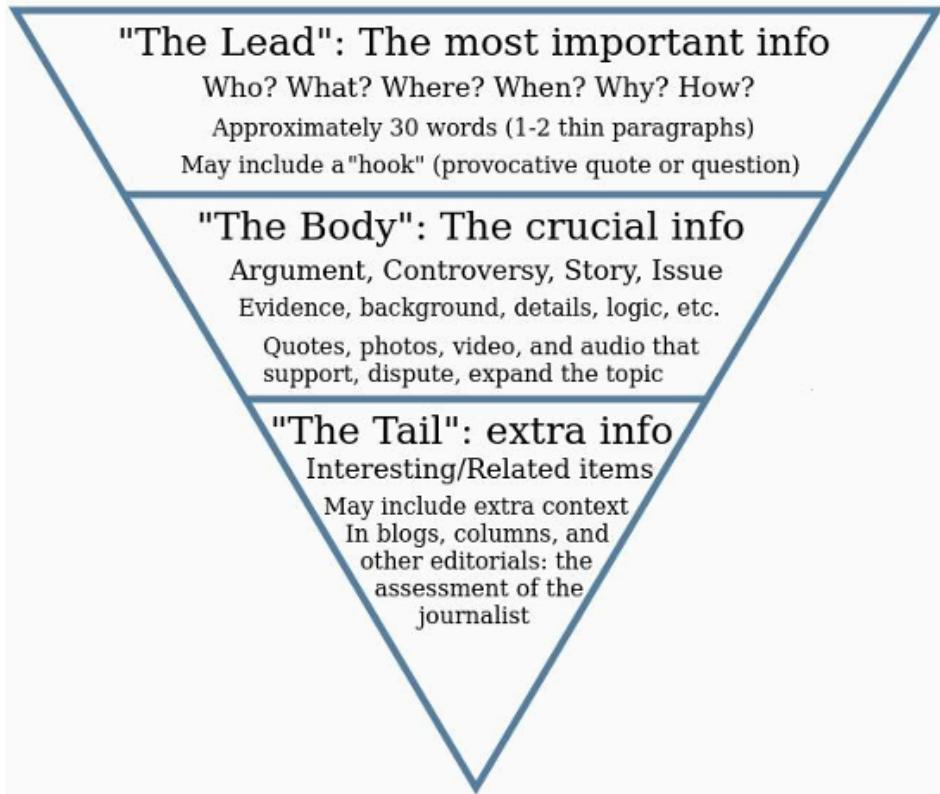
Includes the authorship and news agency.

3. Lead

The lead is the opening paragraph that gives the audience the most important information of the news story clearly and concisely. It is usually a short paragraph and conveys the most significant aspects of the article by answering the 5Ws and 1H (who, what, when, why, where, and how).

4. Body

The body consists of the main content of the article, and can include quotes as well as other additional information, like explanations or background context. In the body, you can explore subtopics and arguments. Oftentimes, many journalists follow the inverted pyramid structure when writing their articles, as shown below.



5. Conclusion

Conclude your article with a fitting conclusion that prompts a response from your reader. The concluding paragraph is usually used to summarise the points mentioned in the article and to recontextualise the topic in its simplest form.

Additionally, it is important to note that photographs and relevant captions may be used in your article, and it is highly encouraged to do so. This may differ as per the formatting style of your news agency.

Important points to note:

1. Do not express any personal opinions in the context of your article, and strictly abide by your agency's bias and mandate.
2. Always ensure your content is backed by research.
3. Verify the accuracy of the information you use by cross-checking with at least two sources.
4. Never refer to delegates by their name. Refer to them by the country they represent instead (e.g. the delegate of the United States of America)
5. Select one important topic or angle as the focus of your article
6. Ensure that your article has a good flow between paragraphs

7. Any numeral ten or less should be spelt out in English. Numbers over ten are written in standard Arabic numerals (e.g. three, 2026)

Plagiarism and the use of artificial intelligence are strictly prohibited and will result in the heavy penalisation or disqualification of the delegate.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

Delegates must thoroughly go through the International Press Corps study guide as well as the study guide of the committee they have been assigned to, in order to gain a better understanding of what the debate in their committee will be on. Delegates are also encouraged to read articles released by their news agency to understand and pick up on their agency's writing style. IPC journalists must bring their own electronics such as tablets, laptops, earphones, chargers, hotspots, etc. and any other material they might need. Please take care of your belongings, as SLMUN'26 will not be held liable in the event of any damage, loss, or theft.

SUBMISSIONS

- ❖ All articles, press statements, and other pieces must be submitted via email in PDF format.
- ❖ Any image submissions must be emailed as either a PNG or JPG file, or as a PDF file containing the image.
- ❖ Articles must be emailed to the respective agency head, and the delegate must receive confirmation from the head table regarding the submission.

1. PDF name

Name, agency abbreviation
→ *Sarah, RT*

2. Email subject

Agency, name of the delegate
→ *Russia Today - Sarah Perera*

3. Email body

Name of writing piece, word count
→ *Effects of Climate Change - 800 words*

INTERVIEW ETIQUETTE

In the International Press Corps, interviews are a crucial part of journalism, as they provide firsthand insight into delegate perspectives and responses to committee developments. Interviews are one way of collecting information for your article. When requesting interviews from delegates, a certain etiquette has to be adhered to in order to remain respectful and professional.

It is good practice to briefly introduce yourself, mention your news agency, and check whether the delegate is free for an interview. Questions asked should be clear, relevant, and purposeful, ideally linked to the angle of your article. Rather than asking close-ended (i.e. yes-no questions), it is best to ask open-ended questions to allow the delegate to elaborate more in their response. It is also important to note that asking overly broad questions may make the interview redundant, as the content gathered becomes unnecessary.

Interviews are ideally conducted during formal recess and lunch break, and as such, delegates have limited time available to conduct interviews, so it is advised to prepare your questions in advance and keep the interview brief. Interviews can also be recorded for future reference, provided that consent is given by the delegate.

AGENCY ACTIVITY

As a collective, all journalists in their assigned agency have to work together to complete a task or a series of tasks. This involves different forms of media such as Instagram posts, reels, broadcasting videos, newspaper articles, etc.

The task for Day 2 will be revealed in due course.

Agency activity makes journalists eligible for the “BEST NEWS AGENCY” group award.

A MESSAGE FROM YOUR CHAIRS

Dear journalists,

Welcome to the International Press Corps at this year's SLMUN'26! As your chairs, we are truly excited to have you step into the role of journalists and understand what it truly means to report.

Through your reporting, you shape how debates are understood and how narratives are formed, and in many ways, your work gives meaning to the discussions taking place across the committees at the conference. As a journalist, you will grow to understand the weight and power that words hold in modern-day media.

We encourage you to be curious and intentional in everything you do. Choose clear angles, stay true to your agency's mandate, and always prioritise accuracy and ethical reporting. Whether you are a novice writing your first article or have experience in IPC, this committee is a space to experiment, learn, and grow as a journalist.

Above all, we hope you enjoy the process. Use this opportunity to develop your voice, challenge your perspective, meet new people and collaborate with your fellow journalists. We are always here to guide and support you throughout the conference, so never hesitate to reach out.

We look forward to reading your work and witnessing your journey through the world of journalism!

Wishing you the very best,
Your chairpersons of the IPC
Thiseni Jayasinghe | Kaina Abdulla