

HILLWOODS MODEL UNITED NATIONS

2019



Secretary General's Address

Dear delegates,

As the Secretary General, It is my honor and privilege to welcome you all to the 3rd Hillwoods School Model United Nations Conference. HMUN has been growing exponentially and actively increasing the level and intensity of crises, debate and co-operation with each passing year. It is a legacy that we hope to continue and reinforce with this year's conference.

In an ever volatile, dynamic and adaptive international status-quo, it becomes increasingly difficult for us as students- and thereby potential actors in the same system of compromise- to deliberate discuss and formulate the groundwork of bi-lateral and multi-lateral ties that are to be established in the future.

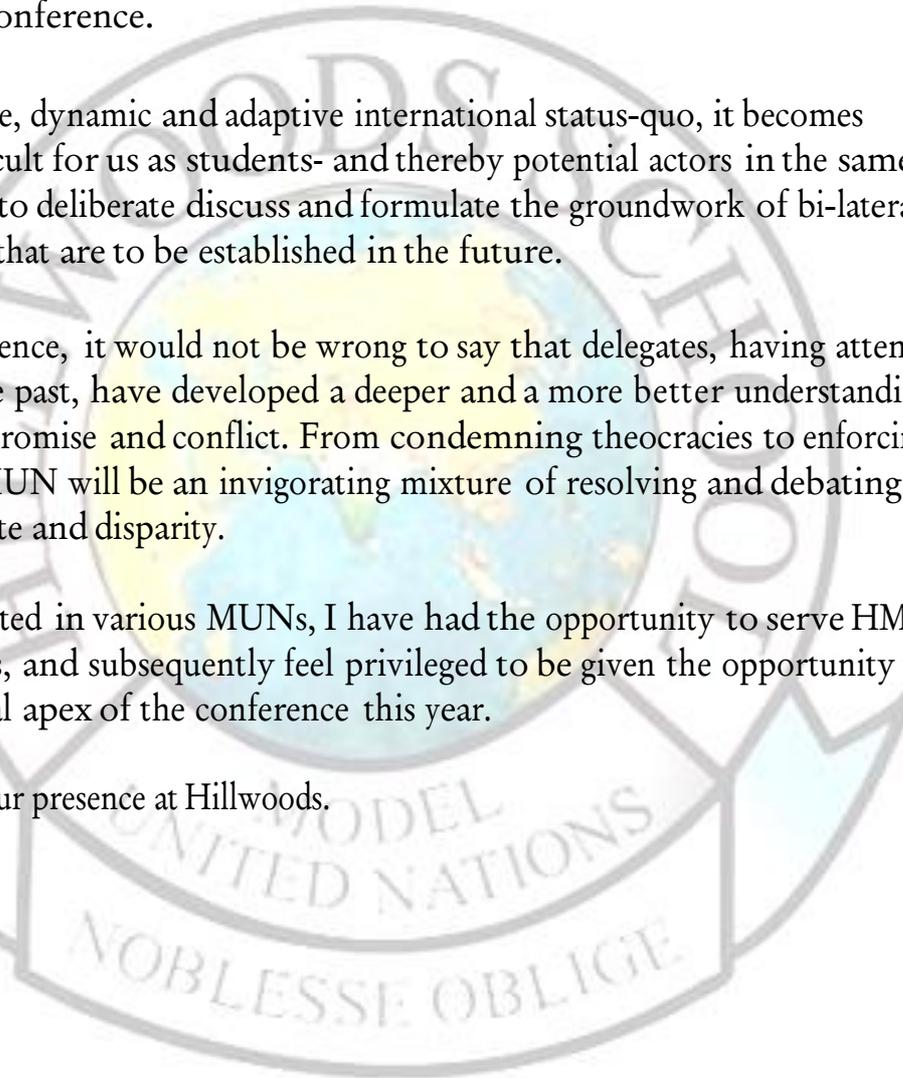
With firm precedence, it would not be wrong to say that delegates, having attended this conference in the past, have developed a deeper and a more better understanding of diplomacy, compromise and conflict. From condemning theocracies to enforcing climate laws, HMUN will be an invigorating mixture of resolving and debating dissidence, dispute and disparity.

Having participated in various MUNs, I have had the opportunity to serve HMUN in various capacities, and subsequently feel privileged to be given the opportunity to be at the organizational apex of the conference this year.

I eagerly await your presence at Hillwoods.

Warm regards,

Rishi Goyal



Chief-de-Cabinet's Address

Greetings!

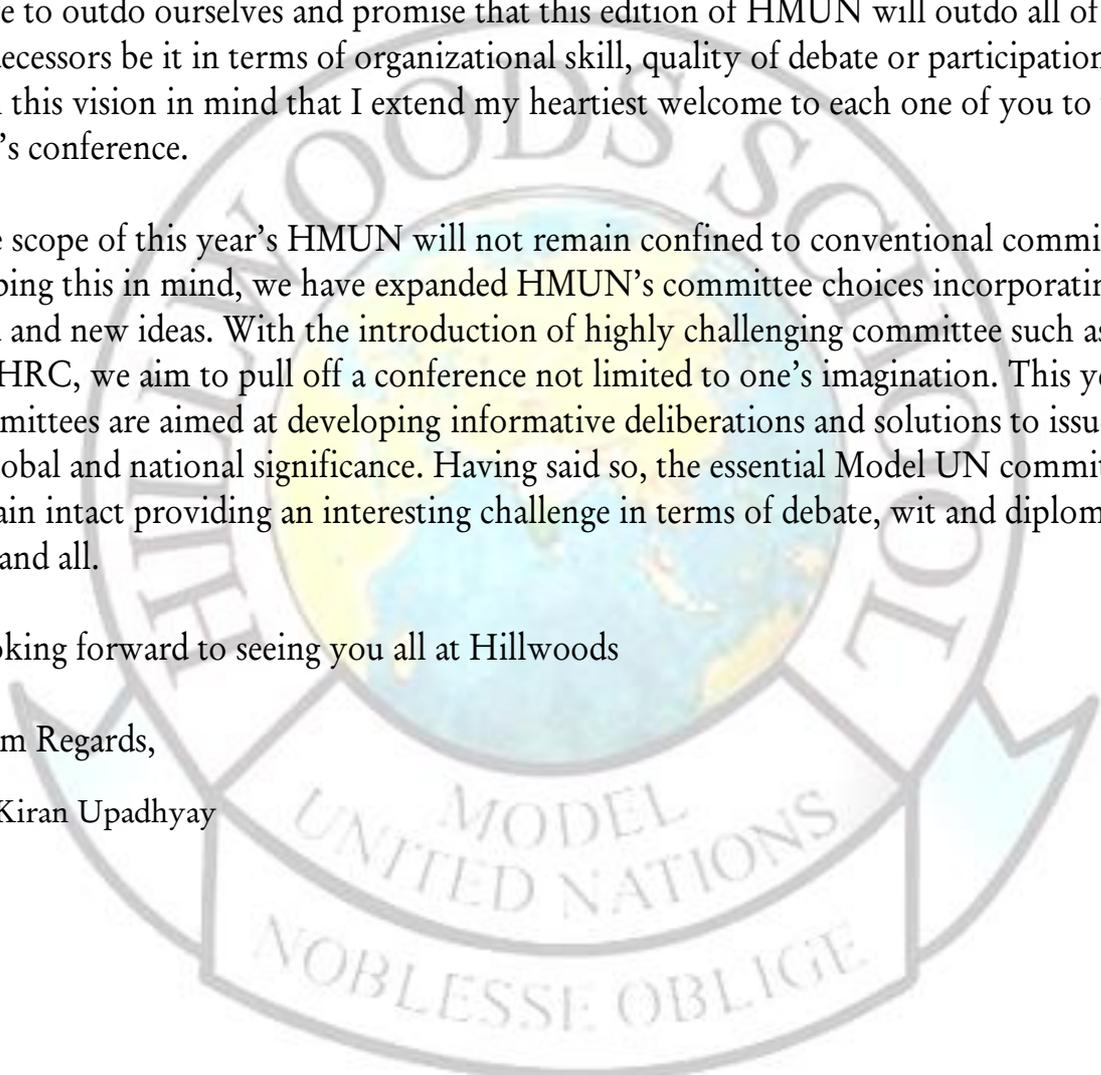
As the Chief-de-Cabinet of the Hillwoods School Model United Nations Conference, it gives me immense pleasure to invite you to the 3rd Session of the HMUN. Being at the pinnacle of a conference that finds itself amidst the top ranks in the town, both in terms of outreach and quality, has been an absolute honour. However, we at Hillwoods constantly strive to outdo ourselves and promise that this edition of HMUN will outdo all of its predecessors be it in terms of organizational skill, quality of debate or participation. It is with this vision in mind that I extend my heartiest welcome to each one of you to this year's conference.

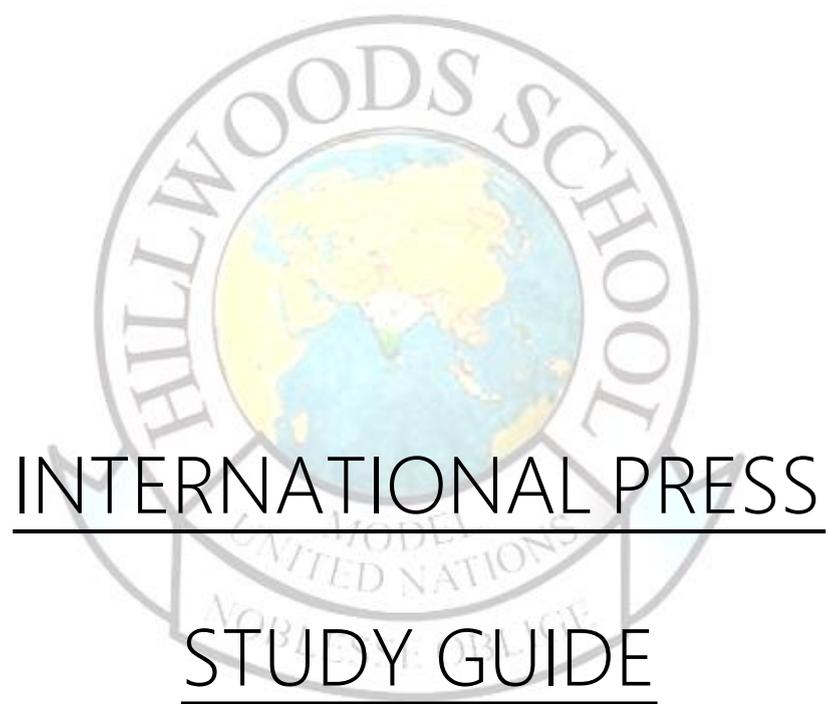
The scope of this year's HMUN will not remain confined to conventional committees. Keeping this in mind, we have expanded HMUN's committee choices incorporating some bold and new ideas. With the introduction of highly challenging committee such as UNHRC, we aim to pull off a conference not limited to one's imagination. This year's committees are aimed at developing informative deliberations and solutions to issues: both of global and national significance. Having said so, the essential Model UN committees still remain intact providing an interesting challenge in terms of debate, wit and diplomacy to one and all.

Looking forward to seeing you all at Hillwoods

Warm Regards,

Ms.Kiran Upadhyay





INTERNATIONAL PRESS
STUDY GUIDE

Dear IPC Members,

It is with immense pride that I welcome you all at the International Press at the second chapter of Hillwoods Model United Nations 2018.

The vision here is to create a journal which echoes the power of the press and gives its readers food for thought combined with well-placed satire and humour. An ideal reporter requires more research and presence of mind than an international delegation. The entire image of a press delegation without adequate research is flawed. Thorough research and background knowledge of all the committees is expected from all the reporters.

This will be an experience that you will cherish for a long time. There will be deadlines, work, tempers flared and a lot of running around, but the memories you create, the new people you meet and the knowledge you gain will outweigh them all. Remember, teamwork is at the heart of great achievement.

Regards,

Shreya Makwana,

Editor in Chief

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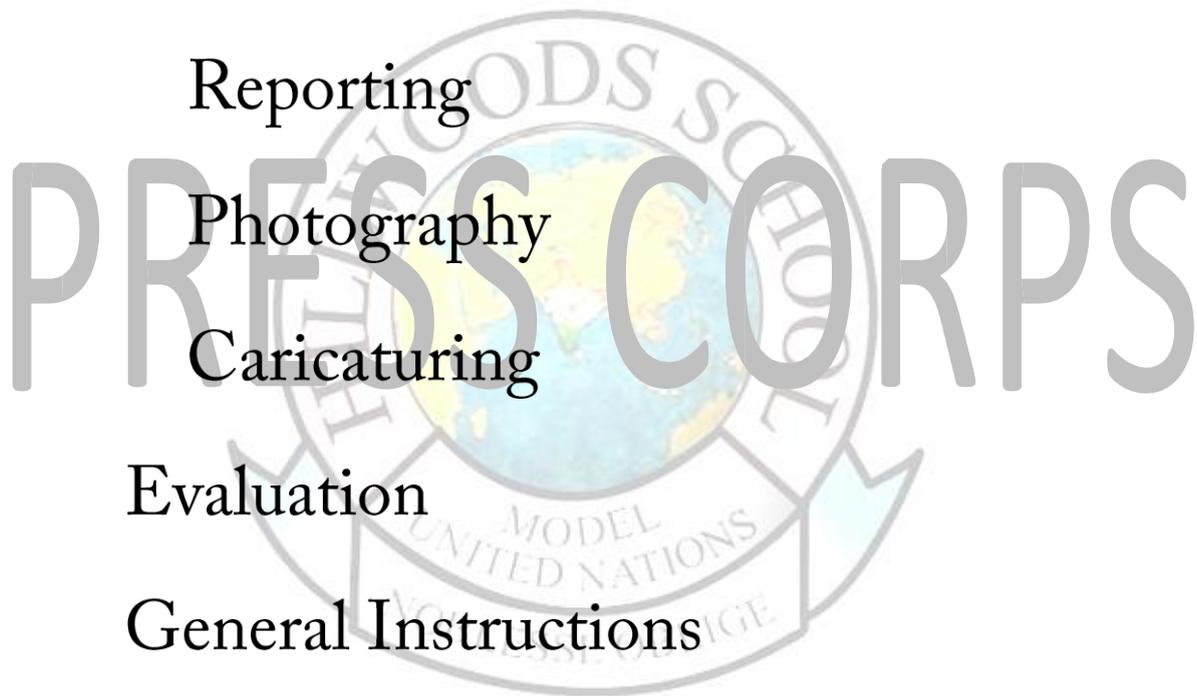
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Overview

The International Press is a specialized committee with a unique function - to report and comment on the proceedings of other MUN committees. The Press is that segment of MUN that has the freedom to listen to debates and express independent opinions on those debates.

Press members observe committees and produce informative and creative newsletters on the discourse. Articles range from op-eds to fluffs, while pictures and caricatures often depict the humorous side of MUN. Through its articles, pictures and caricatures, the Press both informs and entertains all.

The unique experience that the IP holds – ranging from frantically running through committee rooms to getting an opportunity to express your most profound thoughts about how much food means to you – is truly one that cannot be found anywhere else.

Role of the International Press

1) **News Articles:** The bulk of writing for the newsletter will consist of news reporting, drawing upon debates, caucuses, resolutions, press releases and interviews observed by the Reporters. 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 from the council, which may include their take on the agenda. Editorials or OpEds do not have to contain any information on what happened 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 allowed to ask 4-5 delegates of your councils and polite subsidiary questions on probably the second or the third 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.

Reporting

Etiquette and Style Manual:

Types of articles:

Beat-based Articles (300-350 words): The purpose of a beat-based article is to inform someone who was not present in the committee about the committee proceedings. 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.

EB profile: An EB member profile is a fun-filled, mostly humorous, and light-hearted article, whose purpose is to essentially be an entertaining read. It can include, but is not limited to, the individual's funny habits, how they handle committee, their general disposition/demeanour, and his /her thoughts about himself/herself. Ensure that you do not place obscure, awkward information in random, broken paragraphs. Instead, try to weave all your information together, making sure the transition is not abrupt, and leave out unnecessary details that don't seem to work. Ensure that you are not offensive, insulting, or blunt. You are free to use satire, sarcasm and humour, but don't make the article just a list of insults. While you are not under any obligation to write what someone tells you to say about him/her, be mindful of presenting your information in a refined, thoughtful manner.

Opinion-Editorial: It's natural to form opinions, on the agenda and the committee, and this is your chance as independent journalists to express it. Opinion-editorials are simply put, opinionated articles that propose an idea, or more accurately, a

hypothesis about the agenda, and strive to prove it. The first step to writing an op-ed is research. This does not include just verifying facts but also examining and analysing different perspectives on the issue. Thoroughly read the background guide, ask questions, research on your own, and, most importantly, listen and take notes in committee. The most important aspect of an op-ed is analysis. Examine an argument against different perspectives, and try to consider as many perspectives as possible so as to generate the most holistic analysis. Be precise and not vague. Since an op-ed is not just factual, you can't beat around the bush easily and so it is imperative that you have a thorough understanding of the agenda, your argument and its implications, so as to tackle any loopholes successfully. Lastly, for the structure, begin by stating the agenda and your opinion and analyse it, and present your arguments. A comprehensive op-ed addresses any counter arguments that may occur, completely convincing the reader of the truth and validity of your stance, so try to incorporate facts, information and ideas related to the same. Op-eds are not just affirmations that the problem exists, and a reiteration of its gravity, but they also provide viable solutions to

whatever the conundrum may be. Additionally, you can also add some lines analysing the committee's proceedings and the proficiency of the committee in addressing the agenda. Sum up by reiterating your stance with the problem at hand, really driving the point home.

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 op-ed. 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 multidimensional 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, a 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.

Interview:

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.

Establish a Rapport – When starting out, don't abruptly launch into your questions. Chit-chat a little with your source. Compliment them on their office, or comment on the weather. This puts your source at ease.

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.

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

For instance, if you're interviewing the cardiologist and she mentions a new heart-health study that's coming out, ask her about it. This may take your Interview in an unexpected direction – but if it leads to something interesting, so what?

Maintain 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.

Taping – Recording an interview is fine, and generally it's best to get the permission of the person you're recording. Taping can be helpful if you're doing a long interview that you'll have time to listen to and type out later.

TIPS:

Keep your article brief and to-the-point. Council reports should ideally not exceed 300-350 words.

Your article must not betray your personal perspective on the agenda. It is very important to maintain objectivity and report the incidents/conversations with as much neutrality and accuracy as possible. This is a key difference between reporting and writing an Op-Ed article. For this purpose, you are advised to be meticulous with your notes and include quotes as much as possible, with due credit to the speaker.

Make sure to quote delegates word-for-word, and to spell their names and the countries they represent correctly. If you're interviewing them, you can ask them to repeat a phrase in order to write it down.

For factual briefings, it is best to use short sentences and short paragraphs, in order to remain brief and keep the reader's attention. Some paragraphs can even be one or two sentences.

All factual briefings should be written in third person, while editorial pieces can use the first person.

Briefings should be factual and not provide opinions, but you can get quotations from delegates that would express an interesting opinion

Prepare interview questions ahead of time, and avoid yes-or-no questions, as these are generally produce less information.

Include a one or two sentence introduction to your article. This should provide the reader with a sense of what has happened, or what will be discussed in the article. It should grab the reader's attention, and answer as much of the "who, what, where, when, why" as possible.

Fluffs/Fillers/Features/Humorous: 100-150 words

(flexible) Ours, and frankly, everyone's favourite submissions! So much flexibility, so much freedom, so much fun – fluffs are your chance to express your opinion on absolutely anything and everything (related to MUNs).

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 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.

Understand 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 is balanced.

Submission

Deadlines:- Following deadlines is one of the most important parts of this press. Understand that you not following deadlines will impact a chain of events causing much trouble. You will be made aware of the deadlines in your briefing.

Format:

Your articles and opinion pieces will be named in the following manner. The name of your article and then your name separated by a hyphen.

Title: Every article must have a title. The title decides whether your piece will be read, so spend some time to make this.

By-lines: An integral, yet often overlooked part of your article is the by-line. It is simply a line inserted right after the title, indicating who has written the article and what the article wishes to convey. This device can even be used to add a touch of humour to your more serious articles.

Originality: While you are allowed to research and take inspiration from various sources, only original

pieces will be accepted. **Plagiarism can result in debarment from awards.**

Photography

Visuals are extremely intriguing, and the photojournalists at the IPC cover every nook and corner to deliver the perfect shot to go along with the reporting.

As a photographer, your main aim is to capture the essence of the committee. The camera should reflect the agenda, the demeanour of the delegates as well as the heat of the debate.

Make sure you:

DO:

- Have a clear vision and accordingly make a composition.
- Lift up the blinds or switch on more lights in case of inadequate light.
- Carry extra batteries, SD card, laptop and a pen drive.
- Learn to shoot in manual mode.

DON'T:

- Don't use flash.
- Don't thrust the camera in the delegates' faces.
- Don't disrespect the EB and the Secretariat.

Caricaturing

As a cartoonist, moreover as an artist, you have to power to create whatever happens in committee and combine that with your artistic freedom to create a visual representation of the heavy political debate that takes place. To do this, you will most certainly need to be mindful of the language you use and what you're presenting – and it must represent the committee well. Never shy from critiquing or challenging an idea .The press is made to question, and thereby to improve. There is no restriction on what you make, what medium you choose, how large it is, or what you choose to represent – it is all up to you.

While there are really no restrictions, there are a few tips that can help you:

- At the actual United Nations, artists in the galleries take inspiration from what happens in committee and create art from it. Political comic strips, representative pieces on maps, and exaggerated political debates

- Traditional caricatures are most welcome. Portraying the seriousness of the committee in a light hearted and digestible manner is something you should hope to achieve here.

- Analogies are always good. Artists may sometimes create comparisons between people, situations, and objects and show the contrasts between them.

- Irony is defined as a situation where exactly the opposite of what is supposed to happen, happens. Showing this tool in your work can fetch you many brownie points, and showing that you are able to portray verbal and artistic dexterity.

• Carry all the necessary stationary with you. Whatever medium you are working in, make sure that material is with you.

- Carry all the necessary paper and the entire quantity as well. This is applicable to the stay backs as well.

- Do not forget to research on the committee you are assigned. While a little bit of a shift will be permitted, having knowledge of the agenda will not only broaden your perspective, but it will help you incredibly in making what you have to.

- Remember – a situation cannot be simplified or artistically portrayed if the cartoonist themselves cannot interpret it

- Collaborate with journalists and photographers to create joint articles to show harmony in the newsletter. The International Press is a team, and we must work like one.

- The most essential piece of advice is that, one must emulate the delegates, the agenda in a manner that makes it satisfactory for the onlookers to understand what happens in committee. Immersing yourself is the only way to do that. Strive to create art, and just a piece, and your role as a cartoonist, an artist and a caricaturist will be complete.

Evaluations

In order for reporters to have clear knowledge about what will be evaluated in this committee, a brief description of the criteria the staff will follow has been placed bellow. These criteria have been set with a holistic approach rather than a rigid numerical grading system. The following criteria will be taken into consideration:

- Quality pieces are submitted with a relative frequency.
- Production of a varied array of content is achieved over the course of the conference.
- Facts used in articles are accurate and presented in an unbiased manner
- Initiative and creativity when formulating ideas for the reporter's work.
- News pieces are well written, informative, and contain appropriate content and quotations.
- Punctuality with deadlines and curfews set. If having trouble with set time frames, the reporter is

able to inform the Press Corps staff in advance and shows effort to complete their work in a timely manner.

- Responsiveness to the advice and directors of the Press Corps staff.

General Instruction:

During conference, you will be encouraged to use your electronic devices in the IP in order to keep up with your reports or communicate with other members of the IP. However, you will need to be mindful while using your devices inside other committees as you may distract other delegates or logistic officers. It will be required of you to maintain your cameras, smartphones and other devices in silent mode.

Study Guide Information Credits and Sources:

www.pmun.org/ip/common/pdf/Background_Guide_IP.pdf

http://mcgsmun.ac.in/2017/pdf/background_guides/IPC.pdf