



# INTERNATIONAL PRESS

## REPORTERS' GUIDELINES

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1st - 2nd February 2020

Dear Reporters,

I feel glad to welcome you to the reporters' team at PICT MUN 2020!

Journalism is the medium through which the world is informed about the present and is reminded about the past. As a news reporter, you have been vested with the power to establish a public opinion and reveal the truth to the world through your words since they will echo in people's minds long after the conference is over. Although you are expected to meet deadlines and probably skip a few breaks, you will definitely embark on the most interesting journey that will be etched in your memory forever.

In order to bring out the best in you, I request you to stick to the following guidelines in order to maintain some form of uniformity for the sake of evaluation.

1. You will be graded for your:

- ✓ **News Reports:** One news report has to be submitted at the end of the day which means that two news reports of 300-350 words each will be expected at the end of the entire conference. The report must solely play the role of revealing the truth about the discussions during the committee session and hence must not be biased towards a country or bloc.
- ✓ **Op-Eds:** These do not contain any information on what happened in the committee but concern what the author thinks about the discussion at hand. Hence, the op-eds contain an individual's opinions regarding one or more debates that occur during committee sessions and are acceptable even if a unidimensional point of view is presented.
- ✓ **Interviews:** I encourage you to interact with the delegates at a personal level as much as possible since these interactions can be used to enrich your articles with information that could have gone unnoticed during the conference. Apart from the delegates, one can also interview the Executive Board members and members of the Organizing Committee. (Please note that the interviews must not disrupt the committee sessions and hence must take place during the unmoderated caucuses or the break).
- ✓ **Press Conference:** This is the most interesting role of the reporter since the committee finally gets to hear your voice and not just the sound of your keyboard or the scratching noises of your pencil. The purpose of a press conference is to bring out the facts that may have been overlooked by the delegates and to clarify any ambiguity that may have occurred during the course of discussion.

2. Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations should be used. (For Example: NATO, MUN, ICJ, etc).

3. The report must begin with a catchy headline and a 'by line'.
4. Names of all books and print sources must be capitalised and italicized. (For Example: *New York Times*).
5. The use of the terms that would cause the slightest of offence such as 'Third world' is strongly discouraged.
6. If a delegate is being quoted, the exact same words spoken by the delegate must be included in double quotes.
7. For more technicalities, strictly adhere to the 'AP Style' described in the link given below:  
<https://www.codot.gov/business/grants/safetygrants/documents/APStyleGuideCheatSheet.pdf>

## **How will you represent your Broadcasting Channel?**

Like a salad, every broadcasting company is made up of several different elements. Just like how fruits and vegetables are starkly different in their taste but still work together to enhance the salad's flavour, these elements that make up the company have different roles to play but they cumulatively function together to keep the company running.

The most important types of people who work in a broadcasting agency (except the cameramen) are the news anchor, reporter, social media manager, editor, etc. Luckily for you, coordinating with all these people from your broadcasting channel won't be a problem since you will be the sole member representing it.

During the course of the conference, you will be playing all these roles to get the complete experience.

Your role in the committee will be as follows:

1. You need to patiently listen to the discussion that will be going on.
2. You have the power to read all the chits that are passed between delegates in your committee as well as write chits to members. Kindly don't misuse this power. Your interception of the chits must not disrupt the dynamics of the committee. Use this power only for the sole purpose of clarification.
3. You will be added to the committee's official WhatsApp group. This is so that you can post snippets from your articles or share the content of the interviews that you conduct. These will be considered as valid sources of real-time news that the committee members can rely on. Hence, make sure that any material you share is unobjectionable and inform the people whom you're interviewing that their statements will be taken 'on the record'. Additionally, you are requested to follow PICT MUN's official Instagram handle so that you can send content, photographs, etc.

describing your experience in committee. These will be put up as stories (with you tagged in them) as soon as you share your content.

4. Although the committee report should be completely unbiased, you have the freedom to express your opinion through the op-eds which can be biased according to your news channel's interests.
5. The questions that you ask in your interviews and the manner in which you conduct the press conference should also take place in a method that brings out your news channel's perspective.
6. I urge you to closely observe how the manner of delivering facts in the form of news is affected and governed by various factors such as government agencies, people's popular opinions, conspiracies, etc. and I want you to use this knowledge to enhance your style of reporting.

### **Endnote**

The most important point to be noted is that a reporter is nothing without his/her research. I urge you to carry out a detailed research regarding all the agendas and the various writing styles that you can adopt. The guidelines exist as a means of maintaining uniformity and not to restrict creativity. More than a competition, this must be a learning experience that you can always be proud of.

Happy writing!

Dweeja Pathak  
Head of Journalism  
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