

BACKGROUND GUIDE

**REDEFINING THE NARRATIVE:
VOICING THE SILENCED**



**INTERNATIONAL
PRESS**

IGNITE • UNITE • EMPOWER

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LETTER FROM THE EXECUTIVE BOARD

Dear Journalists, Photographers and Caricaturists,

We are thrilled to welcome you to the International Press of the TSMS MUN 2024. As the Executive Board, we want to extend our warmest greetings and express our excitement about the conference ahead.

Our mission as the International Press committee is simple yet vital: to observe, report, and engage with the proceedings of this conference. We see ourselves as storytellers, tasked with the responsibility of capturing the essence of TSMS MUN 2024 through the lens of journalism, photography and caricature.

Your role as journalists, photographers and caricaturists is to be the eyes and ears of this conference. After each session, your task is to craft articles and artwork that reflect the diverse debates, opinions, and issues discussed. Your work should be factual, balanced, and devoid of personal bias. We value accuracy, integrity, and objectivity above all else.

Your role is also to promote free speech and the exchange of ideas. The International Press allows delegates to reform and transform the opinions of their audience, driving change through informed discourse. This strength is what you are expected to channel while researching, investigating, and documenting the happenings of the conference.

We urge you to embrace your role with the seriousness and dedication it demands. By embodying the principles and ethics, you contribute not only to the success of the TSMS MUN 2024 but also to the broader mission of promoting informed and engaged global citizens.

If you have any questions or need assistance, please don't hesitate to contact us. We are here to support you throughout this exciting journey.

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INTRODUCTION

The International Press, often referred to as the ‘Fourth Estate’ of society, holds a distinct and indispensable role in the world of diplomacy, governance, and international discourse. The International Press serves as a bridge between the inner workings of global conferences and the public's understanding of the consequential decisions made within those conference rooms.

This vital committee, within the framework of Model United Nations conferences such as TSMS MUN 2023, simulates the real-world functions of the press on the international stage. The International Press is responsible for observing, analysing, and reporting on the proceedings of the conference, offering a unique perspective that brings global events and discussions closer to the global community.

As members of the International Press, your role transcends that of mere spectators. You become active participants, tasked with documenting the intricacies of international diplomacy, sharing diverse viewpoints, and upholding the principles of truth, transparency, and accountability. Through your diligent work, you not only inform but also shape the narrative surrounding the issues at hand, playing a pivotal role in fostering understanding and engagement among citizens worldwide.

In this guide, we will delve deeper into your responsibilities, rules, and expectations as members of the International Press at TSMS MUN 2024. We invite you to embrace your role as members of the IP, capturing the essence of this conference and contributing to meaningful global discourse.

DEVELOPING RESEARCH SKILLS

Research is the backbone of effective journalism, especially when you are part of the International Press. Your ability to thoroughly research the conference's agendas is critical to providing insightful and accurate coverage. Here's a step-by-step guide on how to research on an agenda as an IP member:

- **[UNDERSTAND THE AGENDA:](#)**

Begin by reading the committee's background guide and familiarising yourself with the agenda topics. Break down each agenda topic into key concepts and terms. Understand their significance in the context of the conference.

- **[CONSULT RELIABLE SOURCES:](#)**

Seek out reputable sources related to the agenda topics. These may include academic journals, government reports, international organisations' publications, and news articles. Utilise academic databases and online libraries for in-depth research. Websites like JSTOR, Google Scholar, and the United Nations' official site can be valuable resources.

- **[READ THE BACKGROUND GUIDE:](#)**

Carefully read the background guide provided for your committee. It often provides a basic understanding of the topics and can serve as your starting point. Pay attention to any specific questions or issues raised in the guide that might guide your research.

- **[STUDY MULTIPLE PERSPECTIVES:](#)**

Gather information from various perspectives and viewpoints. Avoid relying solely on one source or viewpoint to maintain objectivity. Analyse the arguments, opinions, and proposed solutions from different stakeholders, including governments, NGOs, and academic experts.

- **[MAINTAIN OBJECTIVITY:](#)**

While researching, remain neutral and avoid personal bias. Your reports should reflect a balanced and impartial view of the discussions.

- **STAY UPDATED:**

Stay informed about current events and developments related to the agenda topics. Subscribe to reputable news outlets or newsletters that cover international affairs. Follow relevant social media accounts and organisations that may provide real-time updates and insights.

- **ENGAGE WITH DELEGATES:**

Don't hesitate to engage with delegates during breaks or unmoderated caucuses. They can offer valuable insights and information related to the topics they are discussing.

- **TAKE NOTES AND ORGANISE INFORMATION:**

As you research, take detailed notes, and organise your findings. Note the source, publication date, and any relevant quotes or statistics. Create a system for categorising and cross-referencing your notes to make them easily accessible when writing your reports.

- **ANALYSE AND SYNTHESISE INFORMATION:**

Analyse the information you've gathered critically. Identify common themes, points of contention, and emerging trends. Synthesise your research to form a coherent understanding of the topics. Look for connections and patterns within the information.

- **VERIFY FACTS AND CITE SOURCES:**

Double-check the accuracy of facts and statistics in your research. Always cite your sources to maintain credibility and transparency in your reporting.

- **PREPARE QUESTIONS:**

Before attending committee sessions or conducting interviews, prepare thoughtful questions that can elicit valuable insights from delegates and experts.

Effective research is the foundation of meaningful journalism. By following these steps and maintaining a commitment to thorough and unbiased research, you can fulfil your role as an IP member at TSMS MUN 2023, providing insightful and accurate coverage of the conference's agenda topics.

MEDIA OUTLETS

Each reporter has been assigned a media outlet that they are representing. The incorporation of different media outlets within the IP committee adds depth and realism to the MUN conference. It encourages reporters to step into the shoes of diverse journalists and editorial teams, offering a more comprehensive and engaging coverage of the conference proceedings. Use the following tips in terms of the outlet you represent:

- **RESEARCH YOUR OUTLET:**

As a reporter, take the time to research and understand the media outlet you represent. Consider its reputation, editorial stance, target audience, and historical context. This knowledge will inform your reporting style and priorities.

- **UNIQUE REPORTING STYLES:**

Reporters are encouraged to adopt unique reporting styles and tones that align with their assigned media outlets.

- **EDITORIAL PERSPECTIVE:**

Reporters should maintain their respective media outlet's editorial perspective. This means they should report events and statements in a way that reflects the outlet's usual approach to news. For example, a conservative outlet might emphasise national interests, while a progressive one may prioritise global cooperation.

- **CONSISTENCY AND AUTHENTICITY:**

Despite adopting different editorial perspectives, maintain consistency and authenticity within your role. Ensure that your reporting style remains true to the media outlet you represent throughout the conference.

- **COLLABORATION AND COMPETITION:**

Encourage healthy competition among reporters representing different media outlets. This can lead to lively debates, differing viewpoints, and a dynamic press atmosphere. However, stress the importance of professionalism and respectful engagement.

- **DIVERSE COVERAGE:**

To create a comprehensive coverage of the conference, reporters should focus on different aspects of the proceedings. Some may cover committee debates, while others may delve into interviews with delegates or experts. This diversity ensures a well-rounded representation of the conference.

- **EDITORIAL INDEPENDENCE:**

While reporters should stay true to their assigned media outlets, they should also exercise editorial independence. They have the freedom to choose the stories they cover and how they present them, within the framework of their outlet's general editorial stance.

GUIDELINES FOR JOURNALISTS

When it comes to coverage, verifying information, and defending the values of open and accountable reporting, journalists serve as the regulators of the truth. They are essential in promoting an atmosphere of productive conversation, allowing an exchange of ideas, while keeping participants and the conference itself responsible. In a time of abundant information, the journalists at the TSMS MUN act as the forerunners of trustworthy and moral reporting, strengthening the base of informed judgement and cross-cultural cooperation.

- **AVOID PLAGIARISM:**

Plagiarism is a cardinal sin in journalism. Always attribute your sources and give credit to the original authors when referencing their work. Plagiarism greatly undermines your credibility as a journalist.

- **TAKE NOTES:**

While it's essential to have well-researched articles, be cautious to take notes during committee sessions. This will only enhance your research further.

- **CONCISE ARTICLES:**

Keep your articles concise and to the point. A strict limit of 350-500 words ensures that your readers get the essential information without unnecessary verbosity.

- **MAINTAIN AN OBJECTIVE VOICE:**

Even though your articles are not opinion pieces, it's crucial to maintain a clear and objective voice. Avoid inserting personal opinions or biases into your reporting. Stick to the facts and provide a balanced view of the proceedings.

- **PRIORITISE CLARITY:**

Your primary goal is to communicate effectively. Write in a clear, straightforward manner that is accessible to a wide audience. Avoid unnecessary jargon or complex language that may confuse readers.

- **VERIFY FACTS:**

Fact-checking is a journalist's responsibility. Before publishing, double-check your facts and ensure the accuracy of the information. Cite sources whenever possible to substantiate your claims.

- **HIGHLIGHT KEY MOMENTS:**

Focus on capturing the most significant moments and decisions during committee sessions. Highlighting key quotes, resolutions, and debates helps readers grasp the essence of the discussions.

- **REPORT WITH INTEGRITY:**

Maintain the highest standards of integrity and professionalism in your reporting. Avoid sensationalism, rumour-mongering, or distortion of facts. Your role is to inform, not to create sensational headlines. Be sensitive to cultural, political, and social nuances. Avoid offensive or disrespectful language or imagery in your articles.

- **SEEK DIVERSITY IN SOURCES:**

Encourage diversity in your reporting by seeking out a variety of sources and perspectives. Include voices from different countries, regions, and backgrounds to provide a well-rounded view of the conference.

GUIDELINES FOR CARICATURISTS

Caricaturists are essential in conveying the spirit of arguments and conversations owing to their remarkable ability to transform complicated ideas and individuals into amusing and perceptive visual depictions. Their artistic talent acts as a potent instrument for message delivery and conversation starters, as well as bringing humour and originality to our proceedings. The caricaturist's skill adds to the diverse fabric of our MUN experience by guaranteeing our viewpoints are not only heard but also seen with an element of creative flair as we come together to confront global concerns and explore solutions.

- **STUDY SAMPLE CARICATURES:**

Caricaturists should start by looking at various sample caricatures. These can include famous caricatures of celebrities, politicians, or public figures. Studying these samples helps in understanding different styles and approaches to caricature.

- **DIVERGE FROM REALISM:**

Caricatures don't need to be accurate representations of the subject's appearance. They should focus on exaggerating distinctive features or quirks that make the subject recognisable.

- **EXPLORE VARIOUS STYLES:**

Caricaturists should explore a variety of caricature styles beyond traditional portraiture. They can experiment with different artistic approaches, including abstract and surreal artwork. This creative exploration can lead to innovative and captivating caricatures.

- **EMBRACE CREATIVE FREEDOM:**

We encourage caricaturists to embrace their creative freedom. Caricatures are an art form that allows for a wide range of artistic expression. This is why caricaturists should use their own style and technique

- **IDENTIFY KEY FEATURES:**

We recommend that caricaturists pay attention to the subject's most prominent features or unique characteristics. These could be physical traits, expressions, or gestures that stand out.

- **CAPTURE KEY MOMENTS:**

Caricaturists should be observant during events or gatherings where they're sketching. Look for moments when the subject's personality or emotions shine through. These candid moments can be excellent sources of inspiration.

- **MAINTAIN DECORUM:**

Remind caricaturists to be respectful and avoid crossing boundaries that may offend the subject or the audience. Caricatures should be fun and lighthearted, not hurtful.

- **ENJOY THE PROCESS:**

Creating caricatures should be an enjoyable and creative process. It's about having fun while expressing oneself artistically.

GUIDELINES FOR PHOTOGRAPHERS

Photographers play a crucial role in capturing the essence and dynamism of TSMS MUN through their adept ability to document moments that encapsulate the spirit of debate and diplomacy. Their keen eye and technical skill ensure that every significant interaction, from intense negotiations to moments of camaraderie, is preserved in vivid detail. By creating a visual record of our conference, photographers provide a lasting legacy of our collective efforts and achievements. As we tackle global issues and seek solutions, photographers immortalise our journey through their lenses, bringing our MUN proceedings to life.

- **UNDERSTAND THE SCHEDULE:**

Familiarise yourself with the conference schedule, including key events, committee sessions, and special moments to capture.

- **EQUIPMENT CHECK:**

Ensure all your photography equipment, including cameras, lenses, batteries, and memory cards, are in good working condition and fully charged. Bring backups if possible.

- **RESPECT PRIVACY:**

Be mindful of participants' privacy. Avoid capturing unflattering or intrusive photos. Always ask for permission when necessary, especially for close-up shots.

- **STAY DISCREET:**

Move around discreetly, especially during sessions. Avoid causing disruptions or drawing attention to yourself while delegates are speaking or debating.

- **GET CANDID SHOTS:**

Capture candid moments of interaction, collaboration, and networking. These shots can often convey the spirit and energy of the conference.

- **DOCUMENT THE ATMOSPHERE:**

Take wide-angle shots that showcase the overall atmosphere of the conference, including the venue setup, banners, and audience engagement.

- **ENGAGE WITH PARTICIPANTS:**

Build rapport with delegates and organisers. Being friendly and approachable can help in getting more natural and cooperative subjects for your photos.