



**International Press  
Corps,  
(IPC)**

**Background Guide**

**PWS MUN**

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Dear Delegate,

I, the chairperson of the International Press Corps, welcome you to the PWSMUN'20. It is truly an honor to be guiding this committee. The International Press Corps (hereafter referred to as the Press) forms a fundamental part of the world of bureaucracy, linking those that govern to the governed. The public are pawns to be controlled without the Press. We give them the power of information.

As reporters representing international news agencies, your words are as important as the words of the delegates you observe. Different sections of the public look to different agencies for information, and, as such, you will be scrutinized on how accurately you portray the political biases and style of your agency. Bear in mind the fact that exceptional reporters will search for stories, submitting interviews, delegate features, and other relevant content.

This briefing will help you adopt the monikers of the world's leading news agencies and contains information regarding their traits (biases, sourcing, editorial style). It should only serve as an introduction to your role; it is your duty to familiarize yourself with the agenda of the committee within which you shall be reporting. You may even seek As members of the Press, an understanding of the historic events set to transpire within each committee is critical.

Over the course of this conference, I hope that your work as reporters will drive you to achieve a more holistic understanding of the committees you form an invisible part of. I am eager to witness the development of your understanding of journalism. Most importantly, I hope that you come to possess a greater appreciation for the incredible power of the Press.

Regards,  
Akrit Agarwal

Chairperson of the International Press Corps  
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## **Procedure and Awards**

Each reporter will be assigned one of twenty-six agencies. The reporter will remain in one committee for the duration of the conference as a representative of the news agency. Each committee will have at least two reporters (representing agencies of different political leanings). The reporter will be required to produce one formal news piece per committee session - a minimum of four news pieces for the entire conference.

Reporters are encouraged to create additional content, including feature articles that may describe the changing position of a delegate or a bloc, or an interview with a delegate or a bloc regarding in-committee events. After being edited internally, the articles will be uploaded to the PWSMUN'20 website in real time. Throughout the conference, reporters will be assessed on the basis of their performance as a representative of their agency. In keeping with MUN tradition, reporters will be competing amongst themselves for this committee's equivalent of Best Delegate - the award for Best Reporter. This award will be presented to the delegate that best represents the role of an investigative journalist and stays true to the characteristics of the news agency they have been assigned. Other awards include High Commendation and Honorary Mention, in order of decreasing prestige.

The assessment criteria for reporters include language and style, how accurately the assigned agency was represented, the relevance and engagement of the content presented, and the ability to meet deadlines - a key aspect of journalism.

## **Editorial and Authorial Style:**

### **GRAMMAR:**

- Include relative pronouns wherever appropriate. Use 'which' for human entities. All reports must be in the past tense.
- Use Oxford comma where applicable ('an Italian painter, sculptor, and architect')
- Standardized American spelling and expressions.
- Informal, introductory words/phrases are strongly discouraged ('basically', 'literally', among others).
- Avoid contractions.

### **STYLE**

- Do not use any names - refer to delegates by their countries. ('the Russian delegate')
- Most job titles need not be capitalized. (delegate does not need to be capitalized).  
For Prime Minister/President titles, write in the following format:
  - For home countries, PM, Prime Minister; for other countries, prime minister
  - President will always have a capital P.
- Make sure to start the report with the full form and put the abbreviation in brackets, which will be used thereafter ['Democratic Republic of Congo (hereafter referred to as DRC)']

### **NUMBERS**

- Format dates according to the following example: February 5, 2009.
- Use hyphens for ranges.
- Spell out all numbers.

## **FORMATTING**

- Use only one space between sentences and after colons.
- Use italics for foreign terms, but definitions of foreign terms can be enclosed in brackets.
- Employ headline-style capitalization in section headings and committee names. (do not capitalize function/grammatical words)
- Use Times New Roman, size 12 for articles and size 14, in bold for headlines.
- Do not use lists/ bullet points.

## **Representation**

The PWSMUN Press will focus on incorporating different biases to ensure contemporaneous variance in the stories of the present being written down. Each of the twenty-six news agencies represents a different bias and comes from a unique, unfamiliar geopolitical climate (with the exception of the four Indian news agencies). Reporters are expected to study and replicate their agencies' writing style, ideological biases, and perspectives as accurately as possible.

For more detailed characterizations of the news agencies below, refer to <https://mediabiasfactcheck.com/>.

### **CNN**

Founded in 1980, Cable News Network is an American news-based pay television channel owned by AT&T's Warner Media. At its launch, it was the first television channel to provide 24-hour news coverage and was the first all-news television channel in the United States. It provides a liberal stance on many significant matters.

### **The New York Times**

First published in 1851, the New York Times is an American daily newspaper characterized by its progressive stance and is widely regarded as a "liberal" media source. The NYT is prone to using emotionally loaded language in its headlines but also makes sure to use credible news sources. It regularly features opinionated editorials alongside regular news reports.

### **Al Jazeera**

Al Jazeera (a translation of "The Island" referring to the Arabian Peninsula) is a state-funded broadcaster in Doha, Qatar. Launched in 1996, it claims to practice impartial, fact-based reporting, building stories on a foundation of fairness, balance, independence, and diversity. However, some perceive Al Jazeera to have predominantly Islamist perspectives, as well as having anti-Western and anti-Israel biases.

### **Xinhua News Agency**

Xinhua News Agency is the official state-run press agency of the People's Republic of China. Xinhua is the biggest and most influential media organization in China, as well as the largest news agency in the world in terms of correspondents worldwide. With a slight to moderate liberal bias, it strongly endorses socialist political and economic thought and pro-China propaganda. Reporters are prone to including anti-Western ideas and loaded diction.

### **Agence France-Presse**

Agence France-Presse is an international news agency headquartered in Paris, France. Founded in 1835 as Agence Havas, it is the world's oldest news agency. Although it is funded and supported by the French state, it maintains its editorial independence with minimal bias and reports factual and extremely credible information. However, some claim that the AFP has an anti-Israel bias.

### **The Hindustan Times**

Founded in 1924, The Hindustan Times is a tabloid newspaper based in India. It generally has a pro-Indian National Congress tone (a secular party known for social liberalism, placing it on the center-left of Indian politics) and is slightly left-biased. As a result of this, it remains somewhat critical of traditionally conservative, right-wing parties like the BJP. It is known to use loaded diction in its headlines but is considered factual due to its use of credible news sources.

### **Reuters**

Founded in 1851, Reuters is the world's leading international multimedia news agency. It is headquartered in London, United Kingdom and is an international news agency which is accredited by the UN. It has high factual reporting and provides unbiased reporting. It has been named the winner of two Pulitzer prizes for its exposés. Reuters has a policy of using objective language and taking a value-neutral approach.

### **Times of India**

The Times of India is an Indian daily newspaper that launched in 1838 as The Bombay Times. The Times of India has a moderate pro-BJP tone and is known to utilize emotionally loaded language in both its headlines and its articles. The TOI sources from other credible sources such as the BBC and Reuters. However, it is funded partly by the government ruling at a given time and thus may look on its decisions and actions favorably.

### **The Wall Street Journal**

Launched in 1889, The Wall Street Journal is an international business newspaper with tremendous influence in news regarding finance, investment, and corporate affairs.

The WSJ has been criticized for opinionated editorials endorsing right-wing populist politicians abroad, including Jair Bolsonaro in Brazil. It utilizes emotionally loaded language in its editorials (favoring the right) and frequently promotes anti-climate change propaganda. However, its regular news articles are mostly factual and feature minimal loaded vocabulary.

### **Fox News**

Founded in 1996, Fox News is an American television news channel. It is strongly biased towards right-wing perspectives, evident in the diction employed by its anchors and their story selection. It typically looks at issues from a conservative perspective (in the American context) and has several influential personalities in high positions that are strong supporters of Trump. Fox News is also known to publish right-wing conspiracy theories and regularly employs greatly loaded vocabulary.

### **The Daily Mail**

The Daily Mail is a tabloid newspaper published in the United Kingdom. A known supporter of the British Conservative Party, it also maintains a pro-Brexit stance. The Daily Mail tends to publish stories with sensationalized, 'clickbait' headlines and emotionally loaded vocabulary. It has also repeatedly failed fact checks and often references its own articles.

### **The Nation (Pakistan)**

The Nation is an English daily newspaper based in Lahore and published across Pakistan. Owned by the Nawa-i-Waqt group (which has a well-known nationalist bias), its editorials are thought to fall amongst the center-right and are often supportive of the Pakistani government. It is highly regarded for its sourcing, with proper linkage to quotes and information, and is an accurate source of information.

### **Kompas**

Kompas is an Indonesian newspaper that is held in high regard in Indonesia and Southeast Asia. When reporting on politics, it covers both sides of the debate so as to maintain factual reporting. Its headlines do not use loaded diction and are neutral, especially with international news. A point of note is its tendency to source and quote heavily from other newspapers - but it remains a factual, unbiased source.

### **The Straits Times**

Based in Singapore, the Straits Times is an English-language newspaper that was launched on July 15, 1845. It focuses on events in Singapore and in Southeast Asia. The Straits Times has been referred to as "the mouthpiece" of the ruling party and "close to the government". It is often moderately conservative in bias. It publishes factual information but utilizes loaded words to favor conservative ideologies.



Its sources are generally trustworthy for information but may also be right-biased.

### **Malaysiakini**

Founded in 1999, Malaysiakini is a Malaysian news blog that is published in English, Malay, Chinese, and Tamil. The news blog has been seen poorly sourcing their articles regarding national politics by linking to themselves. They also utilize emotionally loaded language with an anti-government tone, giving them a slight to moderate liberal bias. When they report international news, Malaysiakini demonstrates a low bias and maintains factual reporting as they typically republish articles from credible sources such as Reuters.

### **The Korea Times**

Founded in 1950, the Korea Times is a daily newspaper based in Seoul, South Korea. This newspaper rarely provides direct links to sources and, based on use of language, is often seen as providing mixed facts. When it comes to national politics, their leaning is left-center and favors the Democratic Party in South Korea. To favour liberal causes, they are seen using loaded language to appeal to the audience's emotion.

### **AllAfrica**

AllAfrica is a news aggregation site that was founded in 1999. Using a range of content, exclusively from or pertaining to Africa, the site focuses on business, African life, and African politics. The site provides balanced and diverse story selection, along with appropriate links to sources and avoids loaded language. Therefore, it has minimal to no bias and is a credible source.

### **Vox**

Run by the digital media company Vox Media, Vox is an American news hub founded in 2014 and based in the United States of America. Vox reports from a progressive liberal stance and often adapts an anti-Trump tone. The majority of their articles are pro-left and anti-right. In light of this, the hub uses emotionally loaded headlines and language. Its reporting is mostly factual and uses credible sources such as the New York Times, Associated Press, and Bloomberg.

### **TASS - Russian News Agency**

Founded in 1902, the Russian News Agency (TASS) is owned and funded by the Russian government. TASS mimics the political standing of the incumbent Russian government and thus has a right center bias. As a result, their headlines and languages are loaded and promote a pro-Russia message. Since it deliberately omits sources and information that portrays Russia negatively, factual accuracy is mixed. Moreover, their reporting is favorable towards Trump and promotes disinformation to quell his opponents. TASS is a questionable source due to its bias, sourcing and language.



### **Financial Times**

The Financial Times (FT) is an English-language international broadsheet daily newspaper that was founded in 1888. It places a special emphasis on business and economic news. The Financial Times primarily reports economic news with a minimally biased tone and is always backed up by credible sources. Editorially, the Financial Times focuses heavily on economics and how politics impacts it.

### **Dawn**

Founded in 1941, Dawn is a daily newspaper based out of Karachi, Pakistan. It focuses on the latest news, mostly pertaining to Pakistan and South Asia. It often republishes articles from credible sources too. The newspaper has a left-center bias and is progressive. Loaded language is often used to criticize the current right-wing government in Pakistan. Dawn's sourcing comes largely from quotes; however, the links to its sources are scarcely provided. Nevertheless, its factual accuracy is high.

### **The Spectator**

The Spectator is a weekly British magazine often associated with the Conservative Party in the United Kingdom; many of its past editors have enjoyed high offices in the party. Therefore, it should come as no surprise that such a magazine has an editorial outlook that is largely supportive of the right-leaning Conservative Party. It is pro-Israel, advocates closer ties with the USA, and supports Brexit. Almost always, it reports factually, but The Spectator has been known to use loaded language in its titles and articles.

### **The Hindu**

One of the most widely read newspapers in India, it is recognised for its role as one of the many newspapers to report the discriminatory policies of the British Raj. Today, it is considered left-leaning when it comes to Indian politics and has been accused of left-wing and pro-Sinhalese bias in its articles. It is largely factual and is prone to criticizing the BJP government and Narendra Modi through its story selection/titles.

### **The Washington Post**

According to the Washington Post, "democracy dies in darkness." Laying special emphasis on national politics, it is one of the world's most famous news agencies, boasting of nearly fifty Pulitzer Prizes. It is very slightly left-leaning and has been known to use loaded diction but is sharply critical of progressive perspectives such as Bernie Sanders'. It sources accurately and supports whistleblowers and investigative journalism.

### **The Indian Express**

The Indian Express is best known for asking challenging, thought-provoking questions that Indian leaders struggle to answer.

Its perspective on Indian foreign policy seems critically objective and centrist, but it is slightly biased against the incumbent BJP government, evident in its occasional (but rare) use of loaded language in its titles. It also has failed some fact checks but usually provides accurate information.

## **BBC**

Broadcast in English in more than 200 countries, BBC is the world's oldest national broadcasting organisation. During the Second World War, it reported and influenced public opinion in The United Kingdom through its radio services. It has, however, been criticised for its controversial coverage of religious and ethical sentiments and the Iraq War. It maintains a slight liberal bias but reports entirely factually.

## **Sample new pieces:**

### **ARTICLE:**

As the Organization of Petroleum-Exporting Countries (OPEC) convened for the second session of the day, diplomacy ruled the floor. Emotion was absent in its entirety, and most delegates adhered to factual information throughout the committee. With solutions being the crux of debate, the committee appears to be close to the formation of a working paper, a great leap towards addressing the agenda.

The delegate of Indonesia captured the attention of the entire committee with their speech during a moderated caucus, proclaiming that they were "willing to provide financial aid to developing countries and help them develop to the extent possible [sic]." A magnanimous move, it reappeared in the speech of the Saudi delegate. Noting the fact that both countries are American allies, this opens up the possibility of trade to the countries receiving aid with lessened restrictions, which is a step in the right direction.

Almost each representative that participated during the session mentioned diversification, albeit in different contexts. The most influential perspectives were those of Nigeria, who focused on agriculture and minerals, and Saudi Arabia, who discussed financial services. Each mentioned the importance of foreign investment, particularly the influx of capital – most OPEC members have labor-intensive economies – and privatized infrastructure development. However, the Saudi delegate's perspective, "the theory of 'one size fits all' doesn't work for MENA," must be noted.

The Iranian delegate, on the other hand, held a different opinion. They believed that 'exporting energy' as opposed to oil would help 'reduce emissions' and "combat climate change [sic]."

This being the third instance of the representative discussing the notion of climate change in three sessions, it is difficult to say why they believe so ardently that it exists.

They also went on to allege “reducing emissions through investing in ‘bioenergy’ is a worthwhile investment.” Given the questionable nature of their statement considering the level of research and development necessary, the Iranian delegate may be misguided.

The committee is all but ready to publish their first working paper and is highly likely to do so in the final session of the day. As the conference continues, the delegates that continue to distinguish themselves from the others – for the right reasons – prove to be allies of the American government. Their actions are commendable; America looks to benefit from them. However, everything may change when a working paper is published, but the greatest country in the world trusts its allies.

#### **INTERVIEW:**

A conservative estimate of the total value of the global market for oil and natural gas would be at around \$75 trillion. This even exceeds the GDP of the largest economy in the world – that of the United States of America, of course – by a tremendous \$55 trillion. As an exceptionally profitable market, it is understandable that countries with large oil reserves grow around global demand for both resources.

As a result, the Oil and Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) is set to convene to discuss methods to reduce dependence on fossil fuels without compromising on economic development. Despite the presence of several countries critical to forming a resolution, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) stands out.

As a key trade partner to the USA and one of the world’s largest producers of oil and natural gas, representatives of Fox News interviewed the delegate of Saudi Arabia to understand their standing prior to the conference.

**Fox:** Delegate, a prevalent misconception today is that ‘climate change’ is a legitimate concern. Several prominent scientists have stated that increases in global temperature are a part of a natural shift into a warmer era. What is Saudi Arabia’s opinion?

**KSA:** It is absolutely an outcome of emissions from fossil fuels. Saudi Arabia believes that on an international scale, a resolution needs to be reached before any action should be taken.

**Fox:** If Saudi Arabia believes ‘climate change’ truly exists and is an ‘outcome’ of the consumption of fossil fuels, why does its economy depend so heavily on it?

**KSA:** Saudi Arabia has increased their investment into alternative sources of energy, including solar power, so that they reduce their dependence on fossil fuels. The delegate looks forward to proposing similar measures at the conference.

As has been discussed by our presenters several times, climate change does not pose a serious threat to the world today. The delegate's claim may be erroneous - and the Saudi government misguided - but the discourse provides insight into the possible outcome of the convention.

Saudi Arabia's decision to allocate funds to alternative energy could negatively affect relations with its trade partners, but America trusts that the allies President Trump chooses are true and strong. The USA will not, however, allow its interests to be infringed upon for the sake of relations - a fact Saudi Arabia must keep in mind.

