
International press

An introduction

The role of Media in today's society is pivotal and of the utmost importance. It has the power to shape opinions, induce ideas, and keep you informed about the on-goings in your country and around the world. It also gives people a platform to showcase their talents and gets the message across to a wider audience.

The various forms of media – primarily television, newspapers, radio and the internet –

spread and disseminate information.

Media is in charge of :

Information

Education

Entertainment

Advertising

Unifying the various sectors of society

In all honesty, it is the media that can make or break a situation. With the advent of the 21st century, media is accessible to anybody and everybody. Even in countries such as North Korea, which have high censorship of information, there is some form of media.

This proves how necessary media is to daily life. No matter how difficult or dangerous the situation is, one can be sure that the Press will be there to cover it. Reporters sometimes risk their lives to fulfil and facilitate the general public's right to information.

Without media, it is for certain that the world would be a much more corrupt and ruthless place.

At SIGMUN 2019, the press has an integral role. The press will ensure that committee sessions go fairly and smoothly by enforcing the idea that “the truth will prevail”. The reporters will provide a screen to prevent fallacies and lies from passing through. In order to do so, press delegates will use written reports, photos, cartoons,

interviews, polls and all forms of media possible - the more innovative, the better. All material submitted by delegates will be posted on the official press website. It will be integrated with the conference so that delegates have a chance to review the committee's sessions of that day or to gain another perspective.

In committee sessions, press delegates will remain observers throughout. The Press cannot raise moderated or unmoderated caucuses- they basically may not participate in the debate. However, reporters are allowed to pass chits during moderated caucus in order to ask questions, get quotes, etc. The Press must not misuse this privilege. Press delegates should prepare questions they have during the course of committee. If the chair recognises the Press when time has elapsed for a speaker during a moderated caucus, the Press may then ask a question.

Reporters are the only delegates allowed to bring in laptops and cameras during session. Reporters can also use the internet at their own discretion but may not provide information to delegates of their agency's country at any point.

During sessions, reporters are expected to take notes and work on their articles. During unmoderated caucus, they may interview delegates or ask for information for articles.

Chairs/Reporters themselves may also request press conferences. There will be a maximum of 2 press conferences per committee. In each conference, the three press delegates assigned may ask 5 questions in total. These can be in relation to foreign policy or the committee's proceedings. Choose your questions wisely.

Requirements

Throughout the course of the whole conference, delegates are expected to at least meet the basic requirements. Any additional efforts will be taken into consideration for the awards.

1. One pre-summit report
2. One Opinion Pieces
3. Two Print/News
4. One interview
5. A photo with each article.

Otherwise, delegates may feel free to use any form of media to ensure that their point comes across or to simply make the conference more fun. Some examples are

1. Cartoons
2. Videos
3. Polls

Remember to ask permission before you take/make videos, photos or interviews of specific delegates.

Types of Articles

- 1. News/Print:** These articles are basically a report on a committee session's proceedings. These pieces are informative and factual. These are meant to be composed of details on proceedings, general speaker's list, moderated caucuses, interviews, unmoderated caucuses, working papers, resolutions, key players, blocs forming and basically any important points that have come across in the session. Articles can range from a minimum of 250 to a maximum of 500. Keep in mind that delegates won't want to read extremely length pieces. Make it short, crisp and to the point in order to catch their attention. Bring out funny anecdotes that make you question the competence of delegates. Look at a situation from all angles, not just one. Reporters need not consider foreign policy.
- 2. Opinion Piece:** These articles aim to question the delegates, foreign policy, the committee proceedings, the resolution, etc. A good reporter can give delegates a different perspective on a situation, thus allowing them to approach a resolution from a different angle. Think of it as giving an outsider's perspective- someone who is not directly involved in committee procedures. This is your chance to stir up something big. Give your viewpoint on the current situation and be critical. Rule number 1: The International Press cannot be questioned. Press has the freedom to be mean, vicious, harsh and as cold as possible. Try not to hurt any delegate's sentiments personally though. For these pieces, a maximum of 400 words is expected. Be ingenious and surprise us with your provocative stances. **However, you must respect your country's political standings which means you must bear a certain viewpoint according to how your country would favour its allegiances towards. For example, A Chinese reporter cannot recognize Taiwan as a sovereign entity. A Chinese opinion piece would be much more conservative and leaning towards China. Please keep this in mind.**

Pre-summit report specifications

A pre-summit report tells us about you as a writer. It is meant to test press delegates to see how they can write between the lines of factual and biased.

1. The report is meant to answer the given question.
2. The report has to adhere to a word limit of 600 words.
3. You may use photographs and captions - these are not included in the word limit
4. You may be as creative as possible. The more original your report the better.
There is no specific format the report must take. You can write it in a different style altogether. For example, a speech format. The chairs strongly favour reporters who think out of the box.
5. Include facts but give us strong insight.
6. You need not stick to your foreign policy.

Below
are the topics for each country's pre-summit report.

Country	Topic
China	Is Russia justified in annexing Crimea?
India	Did Hitler help Germany more than destroy it?
Iran	Did the USA really help in Afghanistan?
North Korea	Is martial law necessary to keep Thailand together?
UK	How is Shari'a Law beneficial to Saudi Arabia?
USA	Why isn't the UN dealing with Boko Haram effectively enough?
South Korea	Is Narendra Modi too controversial a Prime Minister?
Syria	Was Russia or USA the cause of the Cold War?

Each delegate of the international press corps is expected to submit a pre summit report on the first day of the conference. Failing to do so will result in delay of assignments and score deductions.

General Tips

In the meantime, here are some tips that reporters should keep in mind as they prepare to report on the conference:

- Always write News pieces in third person
 - Make sure you have an interesting title to capture the reader's attention.
 - Don't ask yes-or-no questions, as these probably won't produce very interesting quotations. Leave your questions open-ended and give your subject the chance to explain her/him self in their own words
 - In general, it's best to use short sentences and short paragraphs. Each sentence should be concise and convey some new information, and often in news writing, paragraphs will contain only one sentence.
 - Accuracy is crucial. Be sure to quote delegates accurately, spell names of delegates and countries correctly, and check your facts online before you print them.
 - Reporters should read news articles in preparation for the conference to get a feel of the writing style.
 - Always introduce yourself when you conduct an interview. Let your subject know that you're a member of the press and that they are speaking on-the-record. (That is, what they say might be quoted and appear in your story.)
 - Get a diverse set of interviews for every story. If you only interview one person, your article is likely to seem one-sided, boring, or both. Generally, aim for having at least three interviews in all your articles.
 - News pieces—be they print or video—should be ideologically neutral and should only report the facts. Any commentary in these pieces should come from the individuals being interviewed and not from the reporter her/him self. If a reporter has very strong views on an issue being discussed in committee, she/he can write an opinion piece instead.
 - Beware of using slanted diction even in opinion pieces and pay attention to the overall tone.
 - The introduction of an article (also called the "lede") should grab readers' attention. If a story is more lighthearted, the lede should be clever or pithy, while if a story is more serious, the lede should give the main idea of what happened. After the lede, include the most important details towards the front end of the story, and expand upon them as necessary.
- Interviews are key to a good news story. Try to pick delegates who seem to be very active or who have provided either interesting or unusual perspectives. Remember, the dais staff of committees could also be interviewed and may provide an interesting angle for your story. Prepare questions for an interview ahead of time. It can be tough to think on your feet sometime when you have to keep coming up with new questions.
- Don't feel that you have to stick to the list of questions you've prepared ahead of time though. Feel free to engage the interview subject in a discussion and ask follow-up questions.
 - During interviews, try to write down as much of what the delegate is saying as possible. If you hear a phrase that you think would be especially useful as a quotation in your article, write it word-for-word, and if necessary, ask the interview subject to repeat her/him self.

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- If in writing up a story you're not sure if a quotation is accurate, or you can't remember exactly what a delegate said, don't make up your own words. Go back to the committee and, when there's an opportunity, ask the delegate to repeat the quotation.
 - Don't use too many quotes.

Sample Articles

I. Sample Print/News

Federal Reserve Debates Repurchase Agreement REUTERS

Anticipating the opening of the New York financial markets Monday morning, the Federal Reserve urgently debated the intricacies of a working paper proposing a repurchase agreement removing toxic, asset-backed securities from certain banks and financial institutions.

The working paper comes after unidentified financial institutions approached the Board yesterday in the hopes of transferring their overvalued assets to the Federal Reserve. The paper outlines a plan in which the Fed would transfer properly valued asset-backed securities currently in its possession to said institutions in exchange for the institutions' toxic assets.

The Fed would determine which amount of undervalued assets to cover "on a case-by-case basis." Acknowledging the "fragility" of the current financial climate, the paper noted the need for banks to repurchase their assets at some undetermined point in the future.

Critics of the working paper — Chicago Bank President Charles L. Evans, Boston Bank President Eric S. Rosengren, and Cleveland Bank President Sandra Pianalto — were especially concerned about the vague terms under which the re-transferring of assets to their original institutions would occur. While Dr. Rosengren argued for a long-term date "20 to 30 years" into the future to ensure current market conditions are unaffected, Dallas Bank President Richard W. Fisher worried that such a wide horizon might be unwise since the assets and concrete infrastructure on which said assets are based may be obsolete or nonexistent by such a point. Bank Governor Daniel K. Tarullo offered a compromise between both concerns, suggesting the Fed incentivize the buying back of assets.

Referring to an area of the paper, which he saw as lacking, San Francisco Bank Interim President John Moore additionally questioned the Board's ability to determine the exchange rate between the value of assets from the

Federal Reserve and the value of toxic assets from relevant banks and financial institutions. He also hoped to clarify what proportion of troubled assets the Fed would receive. While the Federal Reserve has not yet judged these matters substantively, Mr. Moore's misgivings are likely to color subsequent debate.

II. Sample Opinion Piece

OPINION: Biased and Stagnant Proposals Slow Up Progress in the General Assembly AGENCE FRANCE-PRESSE

As the General Assembly continues to work towards ending and resolving the Soviet invasion of Afghanistan, its progress is being held up by a few loud voices who continue to refuse to accept the conclusions and decisions of the remainder

of the committee. As delegates from around the world work to solve perhaps the greatest international conflict of this moment there has been surprisingly little disagreement in the committee on what a successful resolution of the Afghanistan "problem" would look like. The vast majority of countries seem to support a plan involving multilateral action to encourage (if not force) the USSR to remove troops from the country and following that removal, humanitarian aid to the Afghani people and the establishment of some sort of provisional government. However, progress is being seriously impeded by those who refuse to accept that the USSR, despite past treaties to the contrary, is a hostile force in Afghanistan and not a benevolent one and that the will of the Afghani people should be the ultimate determinant of international policy on the issue. Unfortunately, while nearly all delegates have accepted these two conclusions as incontrovertible fact, the delegations of several major players on the world stage, notably the United Kingdom and a coalition of Warsaw Pact members including Bulgaria and the Ukraine, continue to impede progress by declaring that the USSR ought to have a long term role in Afghanistan, either in administration or humanitarian aid. The delegates from these countries are doing a disservice not only to Afghanistan but also to the international community as a whole by refusing to put aside the divisions of the past and the realities of a divided world in order to stand together, regardless of allegiance, to act on the social, economic and humanitarian crisis in Afghanistan.

One principle point of contention from these delegates is that the USSR should be the primary source of humanitarian aid following the withdrawal of troops. This proposal completely misses the point. The USSR is in

Afghanistan as a hostile force. The “problem” in Afghanistan is of the USSR’s creation, and therefore it is preposterous to suggest that the very nation that has been responsible for the oppression and subjugation of the Afghani people should suddenly turn into a humanitarian force. As Robert Kivell, the delegate from China put it, “Having the USSR give aid defeats the point of forcing them out.” His colleague, the delegate from Egypt was quick to agree: “should the USSR remain (if Afghanistan), civility in Afghanistan can in no way occur.”

Similarly, while all delegates agree that some sort of provisional government will need to be set up following the withdrawal of Soviet troops, the debate over what form that government should assume is fierce. The answer to this issue too is simple and is grounded in the principles on which the United Nations operates: following the withdrawal of USSR troops, the international community must make a faithful effort to support the creation of a provisional government that matches the desires of the Afghani people. If that means the involvement of the Mujahideen then the international community has no rightful jurisdiction to object. What these delegates fail to realise is that this is not a complex issue. The USSR has grossly violated the national sovereignty of Afghanistan, heaped untold injury on the Afghani people and engaged in war conduct that merits the strong denunciation and not the patience and acquiescence of the international community.

The delegates from France, Egypt and China, among others, deserve commendation for their commitment to reaching consensus on a solution that is based in the realities of the situation, and the needs of Afghanistan, rather than in politicised and biased desires of individual countries that are not directly connected to the situation. The delegates from the United Kingdom, the Ukraine and Belarus however, and any others that support the proposals they have advanced deserve only the condemnation of the international community for allowing longstanding biases to stand in their way of working collaboratively to come to a solution and for basing their proposals in blatantly false idealisations rather than the realities of the situation. Their proposals are neither feasible nor sensible – and they have no place in the deliberations of the committee.

Photojournalists

As the name suggests, they will capture all the committees of SIGMUN 2019. A picture speaks a thousand words! It's important to have equally amazing pictures to accompany reporter's writings. We cannot use low quality, distorted or low light pictures in our publications. Your primary responsibility will be to supply artwork, photographs in good taste – This is not just about pointing a camera and taking pictures- This is where you will be required to think about composition and content. Remember a few key points when thinking about picture – it must always be landscape; that means always holding your camera in landscape and never rotate between the two. Clarity is a key aspect.

Please note: There will an editorial meet on the first day of the conference soon after the opening ceremony in the IP room. ALL IP members are expected to attend. All reports are all expected to turn in their pre summit reports. Absentees shall face consequences in terms of lagging behind in the race for the prize of top reporters and photographers respectively.

And that's pretty much it! Welcome on board! We look forward to meeting all you wonderful people at SIGMUN,19.

Thank You,
Swetlana.