

# *Background Guide*

*Press Corps*



**GatorMUN XVII**

## *Honorable Delegates and Future Reporters,*

Welcome to GatorMUN XVII and welcome to one of the most unique specialized committees within the conference: Press Corps! My name is Alyssa Pearson (Allie for short). I am a sophomore at the University of Florida who switched majors several times, and settled on Computer Science as a major and Digital Arts and Sciences as a minor. After a short bout of Model United Nations in high school, I joined the UF MUN team as a freshman, and I am directing this council during my second year on the team.

As an overall lover of literature and writing, and after having the privilege of staffing this committee last year, I asked to direct Press Corps this year. I also personally believe in the power and importance of the Press as the informal “fourth branch of the government.” News outlets are responsible for educating the public on current events, including politics, and calling out bureaucratic actions that are either dangerous, unwanted, or hushed up. The public deserves transparency, and the Press helps to maintain that, even if some sources have agendas and biases.

In this committee, you will be given a News Outlet to represent, and assignments to fulfill. Your job as a reporter is to go to other committees within GatorMUN and to report on the actions being taken within them, finding the most exciting and important aspects to write about. While in these committees, you will write as though you are writing from within the world of that committee, whether it is based in our past, present, or future, or even in alternate and fictional universes. After gathering information for one of four types of articles - News, Feature, Opinion, or Social Media - you will return to our committee room to write and edit the piece. You will be responsible for submitting your papers by the deadline, and will then receive edits and feedback on your papers.

Please come prepared to committee. You will need a laptop and its charger in order to write and submit your assignments. My committee will use Google Drive and Google Docs to submit and comment on papers, so please create a Gmail account if you do not have one already for the sake of ease (if this isn't possible, emailing Word Docs to me is acceptable, but not preferred). This committee does not require a position paper. You may, however, want to brush up on your assigned news outlet to see their style of writing, and come with pens, notebooks, or even recording devices (or just your cell phone) to write down quotes as you interview other delegates.

I am excited to meet you all. While Press Corps is a bit unconventional in terms of procedures, it is a lot of fun and a chance for you to practice independence and discretion. You get to decide what's important, and you get to write all about it! Throughout this background guide, I will elaborate more on the formats you are expected to follow, and provide a brief background to several news outlets. Please look over them to get a feel for what you'll be writing about, and how you'll be writing. Please contact me at [GatorMUN@gmail.com](mailto:GatorMUN@gmail.com) with further questions! See you in February!

Sincerely,

*Alyssa (Allie) Pearson*  
Press Corps, Director

# Rules of Procedure

As a specialized committee, and one with such a unique task and structure, Press Corps does not typically follow the standard Parliamentary Procedures taught in typical Model UN Committees. However, the committee and the delegates within it are to act orderly and respectfully to all directors, staffers, and delegates, whether they are in Press Corps or any other committee. Within the Press Corps Committee room, there are several basic procedures that must be followed:

The room is to remain quiet while in session. You may whisper to fellow delegates in order to ask questions or relay information, but other than this, there should not be talking. This is to allow a suitable workspace for everyone to write, edit, and format their pieces.

If you have a question, you must raise your placard and wait to be called upon. Do not walk up to the Director's and Staffer's desk unless you are called upon to do so.

While you may view examples of news articles to get an understanding of formatting and writing, there is no tolerance for plagiarism, either of actual news outlets or of the work of fellow delegates. If plagiarism is suspected, the delegate in question will not be scored. If you feel you must use an outside source in your piece (which is generally unnecessary), you must cite the works used.

APA format will be used in all pieces. Major and thoughtless errors will affect your score, but mastery of APA is not expected. Later in this guide will be some basic formatting tips and guides to follow and help you along.

The deadline for each news article is 15 minutes before the end of each session. You must submit the document on time (through Google Docs, or if necessary, email). If you do not submit the article by the deadline, it will not be considered for scoring that session, and will bring your score for the conference down. Punctuality is very important. The exception to this rule is a technical difficulty. If experiencing technical difficulties, the delegate needs to inform one of the staffers immediately, to warn that the piece could be late. Late articles will not be accepted otherwise.

When in another committee's room, you are to follow the instructions of the director and staffers there. If there is a conflict between you and the director/staffers, either send me an email or come back to the room and inform me. You are not to interrupt the proceedings of the host committees. You may take pictures, but you must ask those in the picture for their permission to use the photograph if their faces are shown. You cannot use it otherwise, as it is unethical. If you need to interview someone, you must write a note to them and the director requesting their short absence from the committee. The most respectful thing to do is to wait for an unmoderated caucus and interview/ask questions then.

These are the rules for committee. However, basic parliamentary procedure is important to know, as you will be visiting other committees and abiding by these rules. I will add the most basic and important *parli-pro* that you will need, but it wouldn't hurt to brush up on it more on your own.

**Moderated Caucus:** A time of formal, structured debate and presentation by multiple delegates. These allow for uninterrupted speeches to be made in order to persuade, inform, or disprove of actions or plans forming in the committee. Put into motion by a simple majority vote. Delegates that raise their placards are called on by the Director to speak. If no one chooses to speak, the Speaker's List will be invoked (if there is one). Each Moderated Caucus has a set length, a set speaking time for each delegate, and a reason/

topic for the caucus. These are strictly enforced.

**Unmoderated Caucus:** A time of relatively unstructured, less formal debate. All delegates are free to move about the room, speak to other delegates, write notes, form plans and blocs, and debate freely. These are important times for journalists, as people are more available (and willing) to talk about their topics in depth and without pressure. Politics move quickly in Unmoderated Caucuses, so pay attention to groups and resolutions that form. Put into motion by a simple majority vote.

**Points of Order:** Delegates may raise their placards in order to point out errors in procedure or voting, including questioning the relevance of a debate to the current assigned Topic and questioning quorum.

**Points of Inquiry:** When the current debate speaker has finished, a delegate may raise their hand and ask for a Point of Inquiry to question the speaker. The Committee Director will ask the speaker if they will accept the question, in which case the speaker will accept or deny. If accepted, the delegate can ask their question, and the speaker can either answer or decline to answer.

**Points of Personal Privilege:** Used to ask for clarification, information, or to ask for something not relevant to the current debate.

**Right of Reply:** The Committee Director can appoint a delegate with a Right of Reply if another delegate makes serious insults or accusations of the delegate. The insulted delegate can ask for a Right of Reply, which can be rejected or approved by the Committee Director. Rights of Reply must insult the delegate himself/herself, NOT the policy of the country he or she represents.

**Draft Resolutions/Resolutions:** Resolutions are calls to action and plans voted upon and passed in General Assemblies. They include concrete plans about how to deal with the topics at hand, and/or abstract clauses that officially recognize the topic or encourage countries to take action for them. They are generally not binding. They require multiple sponsors and signatories to be worked on, and must be voted for by a majority of the Assembly to be passed.

**Directives:** Directives are the Crisis version of Resolutions, and they are actions that the crisis assembly agrees to take as a unit. Countries within a Crisis Committee can often act independently with private crisis notes, but a Directive is public and passed by multiple countries. Press releases of the information in the committee on behalf of the committee must be voted on as Directives.

**Crisis Notes:** In a crisis committee, a singular country can write crisis notes to the Crisis staff detailing the country's individual actions they want to take in regards to the topic. The action may work or not work, depending on the staff's decision. These are private and do not need to be voted on.

**Voting Procedures:** In both General Assemblies and Crises, no one may leave or enter the room until voting has ended. Journalists may not attempt to enter or leave a room while it is in voting procedures. If you get caught in voting procedures near the end of a session, edit and submit your paper from there. Since no one is allowed to leave, the staff of the room should not attempt to kick you out of the room. This has happened in the past. Reporters should never be rude to a staffer, but you should explain that you are not allowed to leave once procedures have started. There is also no talking, no passing notes, and no communicating (unless a staff member is speaking to you).

## Positions

Al Jazeera: This news channel is centered in the Middle East, specifically in Doha, Qatar. Al Jazeera publishes global as well as local news, and focuses on current-affairs subjects rather than gossip or celebrity news. Their TV news channel originally started in 1996 following the cancellation of the BBC's Arabic news channel. The outlet and media corporation is owned by the government of Qatar, and has been suspected of being used for propaganda and showing religious bias at times. However, Al Jazeera itself claims otherwise, and has previously been used to broadcast live war footage and transmit breaking news of every kind. While their original outlet was television, they have since expanded to online articles and other TV channels with special features.

Asia Times (AT): This publishing group is based in Hong Kong. It began as a newspaper based in Bangkok in 1995, but once that closed, became an online news outlet in 1999. They publish mainly in English, with a few other languages. They cover global news on politics, economics, business and culture, but do so from a uniquely Asian perspective. Often times, subjects in or about Asian countries are featured most, and stories featuring other areas of the world are tied into the Asian world within their articles.

The Associated Press: This non-profit news agency is one of the largest newspapers and article outlets in the world, but has a smaller impact in the broadcasting sphere. They mainly deliver news through physical means like newspapers, but also have a radio station where they broadcast the news twice hourly. They've been running since 1846 in New York City. They've earned 51 Pulitzer Prizes, including 31 for photography. They publish in a variety of languages, and are also responsible for counting and reporting voting numbers in national U.S. elections. As such a large company, there aren't many topics they do not cover; however, they focus on larger, current-affairs news stories from around the globe. They strive to be impartial and unbiased.

The Australian: This is a broadsheet newspaper in Australia that began publishing in 1964. While it is head-quartered in Surry Hills, a subsection of Sydney, Australia, the newspaper is published and distributed in multiple places throughout the country. The paper covers a broad range of topics, and includes sections for National News, Worldwide News, and Sports and Business as daily topics, but features other topics in a rotating schedule (like technology, health, and political commentary).

Bild: Bild is a massive German tabloid that began printing in Berlin in 1952. While they cover global news, they are well-known for gossip, sensationalism, and scathing language and reviews. It is the "sixteenth-largest" circulating paper worldwide and Europe's best selling newspaper overall. The paper often features celebrity gossip, political attacks, and crime stories.

The British Broadcasting Corporation (BBC): As shown by the name, the BBC is centered in London, Great Britain (UK). Its first radio broadcast was in 1920, and they've only grown to be larger and more popular in the broadcasting world since. They dominate television, radio, and streaming services in regards to news, but lack a presence in physical news distribution. They do have typed articles on their website though, which is also heavily trafficked. They cover a wide range of news topics in all scopes of life, but generally remain neutral on each topic.

Cable News Network (CNN): CNN was founded in 1980 and is head-quartered in New York City, but also has studios in Washington D.C. and Los Angeles (in addition to its satellite studios

around the world). While the main focus of this outlet is broadcasting via television or radio, they frequently release summaries of their broadcast stories (or original news articles) online at their website. They focus on current-affairs news, with a particular interest in politics.

Clarín: This is Latin America's largest circulating newspaper, and is a subsection of the larger media mogul of Grupo Clarín of Argentina. They are head-quartered in Buenos Aires and began publishing in 1945. They also have a website to publish articles that are published within the newspaper itself. They publish in a tabloid format and generally write more sensationally rather than objectively.

Daily Mail: The Daily Mail is a tabloid paper based in London, which began in 1896. While the Daily Mail has won several awards, it has also been criticized for using sensationalist and inaccurate headlines and stories to gain readers. Their paper contains heaps of celebrity gossip and notes on political and public feuds. They feature other topics more sporadically, like scientific studies. They take advantage of physical prints as well as online media, but do not produce broadcasting materials.

Dainik Bhaskar: Dainik Bhaskar started in Bhopal in 1958. This is an Indian, Hindi-language newspaper, but also has English-, Marathi-, and Gujarati-language editions. It has recently launched a news app that features articles from the paper, but does not broadcast. It publishes daily, with most subjects dealing with Indian-centered news. They do, however, feature global news.

Detikcom (Detik.com): This is a popular news outlet in Indonesia, and it only produces online, digital content, with no physical or broadcasting presence at all. Its main focus is news, but features other topics like sports and technology in articles. It is located in the city of Jakarta, and was initially founded in 1998.

USA Today: Based out of Mclean, Virginia, this newspaper began in 1982. As a middle-market newspaper, it covers a wide range of topics with a less serious and formal tone, as it is meant to entertain as well as inform. While it is mainly a newspaper, it has a website to publish its articles on as well.

The Washington Post: As an outlet whose focus is politics, it's no surprise that The Washington Post is centered in the political heart of America: Washington D.C. Beginning in 1877, The Washington Post has had a daily broadsheet newspaper that also publishes online. Their work is often controversial and influential, featuring both breaking news and opinion pieces about current-affairs and politics in the United States.

The New York Times (NY Times): The New York Times is based in New York City, and has been since 1851. This broadsheet newspaper also has a staggering online presence with its website, with many of its followers only accessing their work digitally. They have a track record of winning Pulitzer Prizes, with 127 under its belt. Considered a "newspaper of record", they publish news of all kinds and in huge volumes.

El País: El País is headquartered and has been published out of Madrid, Spain since 1976. This daily newspaper is published in Spanish. While previously known for its "sobriety" and clean, serious formatting and language, it was updated into a tabloid format in 2007. It still retains most of its clean cut language and neutral tones, and aims to produce generalist content. Considered a "newspaper of record" for Spain, they cover a wide range of topics. Much of their news can

also be found on their website.

El Tiempo: This is a Colombian newspaper that is popular throughout Latin America, and is one of the few (if not only) newspaper in Colombia whose publications are distributed nationwide. Founded in 1911 and based in Bogota, they publish broadsheet newspapers and online articles daily. They typically feature the same type of stories everyday (general news), but have special features on Sunday.

The Guardian: This is a British newspaper featuring tabloid structured columns and articles, which are published both physically and online. Running out of London since 1821, The Guardian is typically seen as being "left-wing" or "liberal" in its opinions and political statements when they report on politics and current affairs. It was founded from a trust to prevent monetary or commercial influences from taking away The Guardian's freedom of expression, and profits are reinvested into journalism.

Isvestia: Isvestia is a Russian daily newspaper based in Moscow. It has been operational since 1917, and is largely considered to be the national newspaper. It is a physical broadsheet newspaper that has come under attack by the Russian government in the past for the way it portrayed certain news topics, but since its new ownership and reopening in 2008, it has gained credibility and popularity. It also features an online news outlet. They cover Russian politics and events, but have some coverage of global events and affairs as well.

O Globo: This is a Portuguese-language publication from Rua Irineu Marinho, Brazil. It has been a daily newspaper since 1925, and has previously come under fire for attempting censorship of a film about their paper. They have won a Prince of Asturias Award of Communication since then, and have redeemed their reputation as a reputable news source. They lack broadcasting material, but their newspaper and website are both very popular in South America.

The Sun: Published out of London in the UK, The Sun is the second most popular tabloid newspaper in Europe. After starting in 1964, they have published news, politics, and current events daily. They are typically considered to have a conservative stance on politics by the UK's standards. They have multiple versions of the paper as well, including the Scottish Sun and the Irish Sun. In addition to their physical paper, they have a website that features news articles.

Time Magazine: This iconic magazine, renowned for its red border and celebrity features, has been publishing out of New York City since 1923. Time has several distinguishing themes, including the "Person of the Year" and "Time 100" sections, which are largely considered to be an honor to be placed on. On top of the news, politics, and current-affairs, they often include biographies of celebrities and informational sections from various fields. Aside from the magazine, their website is frequently visited.

The Times of India: Both the oldest English-language and third most popular English publication in India, The Times of India reports on local, national, and global issues regularly. It is a daily, printed newspaper that also has an online counterpart at [Indiatimes.com](http://Indiatimes.com). They have been publishing out of Mumbai since 1838.

The Wall Street Journal: This is an American-made daily newspaper that focuses on business, finance, breaking news, and politics. It has published out of New York City since 1889, and has Asian and European editions as well. They also print the WSJ magazine, which focuses on lifestyle articles and luxury news. Their website also receives heavy traffic. They are typically conser-

vative in their stances of the politics and economics they cover.

Xinhua News Agency: Xinhua is governmentally owned by the People's Republic of China. It is the largest news agency in the world, in terms of employees and correspondents, and delivers news through over 20 newspapers and 12 magazines. It is the only sanctioned media group to deliver news about the central Chinese government, either through their physical media, website, or expansive broadcasting systems. They are headquartered in Beijing and have been publishing since 1931.

Yomiuri Shimbun: Yomiuri Shimbun is one of Japan's five national newspapers. The papers are routinely printed twice a day (evening and morning). They also have a website. They are based in Tokyo, but have publishing centers across Japan. They have been publishing since 1874. It is generally considered to be a conservative (promoting traditions, institutions, and authority) newspaper in Japan.

Euronews: Euronews is a broadcast-focused news station, focusing on European news but including a broad range of topics. Their websites include written news articles as well as clips from their news segments. They are headquartered in Lyon, France and began broadcasting on January 1st, 1993. Their articles try to remain neutral and show news from a pan-European perspective, and they try to involve articles, journalists, and topics specific to all European countries within their stories.

POLITICO: This news network has rapidly grown their online presence. The company has several sects specific to the politics of certain continents, which feed into the main POLITICO website. They focus on news involving domestic and foreign policy or political events. They focus on written news articles, and also have a magazine bearing the same name. They do have smaller, broadcasted news sources. They were founded January 7th, 2007, and are located in Arlington, Virginia.

Africa News: One of the most popular news sources on the continent of Africa, their online articles cover all walks of life as an African resident. They are a multilingual source headquartered in Pointe-Noire, Republic of the Congo. Africa News is a subsidiary of Euronews, and began publishing online and broadcasting on television on April 20th, 2016.

allAfrica: allAfrica is an up-and-coming news website whose content is primarily available online through written news articles. It generally covers all aspects of African life, from politics to culture, but does not often attempt to report on international news. Although it does not have an official headquarters, it has offices in Cape Town, Washington D.C., Lagos, and more. allAfrica focuses more on the distribution of news than the production of it, and partners with over 140 African news organizations throughout Africa to publish over 700 articles a day on their website.

The African Executive: The African Executive is a weekly business and opinion magazine. Headquartered in Nairobi, Kenya, the magazine began publishing in 2005. This news source general publishes commentary on social, political, and economic events in Africa, and invites international sources for commentary as well.

The Diplomat: Despite its base in Washington D.C, The Diplomat is a magazine covering politics, business, lifestyle, and culture in the Asia-Pacific region. Previously headquartered in Tokyo, Japan, it began publishing in 2001. They frequently partner with other news organizations and bureaucratic agencies to produce factual studies and high-profile interviews.

Asian Correspondent: Launched October 2009 by Hybrid, the Asian Correspondent is an independent Asian news source that highlights various bloggers, journalists, and news sources. They cover news and political pieces in the Asia-Pacific area, but are based in Bristol, England. The Asian Correspondent is a digital publication - the site recently hit their millionth visitor mark, abstaining from physical publications as of yet.

The Asian Age: The Asian Age was one of the first global newspapers in India. Launched in 1994 and based in Delhi, Mumbai, and Kolkata, it publishes daily in print and on their website. They print in English on a wide variety of news topics, and also publish an international edition of their magazine in London.

South China Morning Post: This Hong-Kong based, English-language newspaper was established in 1903 and is considered Hong Kong's newspaper of record. It averages a daily circulation of 100,000 prints in broadsheet format, and also frequently updates its website with news stories. While a few main categories are printed daily, several categories are only featured on certain days of the week. This newspaper mainly focuses on China's internal events, but often covers other Asian news as well.

The Economist: This magazine format newspaper is published weekly in English. This publication was founded in 1843, and is headquartered in London, England. They focus on business and politically support free trade, globalization, and economic and cultural liberalism. The weekly circulation of the newspaper is over 1.5 million copies, and may be accessed online as well.

Foreign Affairs: This American magazine focuses on foreign policy and global international relations. They publish a new edition bi-monthly, focuses on the actions of the United States in the global sphere. They began publishing in 1922.

The Atlantic: The Atlantic is an American magazine published 10 times a year and headquartered in Washington D.C. Their website updates daily with news articles, covering news, politics, and international affairs, among other lifestyle categories. They began publishing in 1857. They are renowned for their generally neutral political stance and highly credible articles.

USA Today: USA Today is an American-based newspaper distributed internationally. Founded in 1982 and based out of Virginia, this middle-market newspaper focuses on concise reporting, informational graphics, and popular culture. This newspaper is one of the most widely circulated newspapers in the United States, rivaling the New York Times and the Wall Street Journal. It has a central political stance.

The Los Angeles Times: The LA Times is one of the largest daily newspapers in the United States, with a total print and online website audience of 4.1 million. It's been in publication since 1881 and runs out of El Segundo, California. They mainly cover news from the U.S. West Coast, and has won numerous Pulitzer Prizes.

The Chicago Tribune: The Tribune is a daily broadsheet newspaper based in Chicago, Illinois and founded in 1847. It is the 6th highest circulated newspaper in the United States. The Chicago Tribune has self-proclaimed themselves to align with traditionally conservative political views, but does not affiliate with the Republican party specifically.

Latinamerica Press: The Latinamerica Press is a publication and news website in South America that focuses on Latin American and Caribbean affairs. They are supported by a non-profit organi-

zation dedicated to distributing accurate news across the continent.

El Espectador: El Espectador is a nationally-distributed newspaper in Colombia, based in the capital of Bogota. Founded in 1887, it is the oldest Colombian newspaper still in circulation, publishing daily in tabloid format. The paper and website focuses on opinion articles and not breaking news.

El Mercurio: El Mercurio is a Chilean newspaper that is politically more conservative. It is published daily since its founding in 1827 (one of the oldest, Spanish-language newspapers in South America). It is based in Vitacura, Chile.

The Boston Globe: The Boston Globe is an American daily-newspaper in Boston, Massachusetts, and was created in 1872. Wielding numerous Pulitzer Prizes, it features both news and editorial sections, as well as a magazine bearing the same name.

Nikkei: The Nikkei Asian Review is headquartered in Tokyo, Japan and founded in 1876. It is the world's largest financial newspaper, with a circulation of three million copies daily. It focuses on financial, business, and industry news, both in Asia and internationally.

## Background

Human beings have been social creatures since conception. As such, spreading information has always been a vital part of our beings for survival, growth, and entertainment. Even before the advent of the printing press, news and current affairs circulated by oral means, through criers, heralds, campfires, and trade routes. With the printing press, as well as block printing, information spread rapidly and the world became more literate.

While there are records of newspaper-like publications from Ancient Rome and China, the regularly circulated and formatted newspapers we are familiar with today were formed in Germany and England in the early 1600s. By the 1700s, newspapers here were generally free from censorship and government control, and operate most similarly to how they do today--as independent companies with journalists under them. Starting later in the 1700s was the circulation of magazines, generally featuring opinion or lifestyle information articles and targeted toward an uneducated audience. News agencies also sprang up, who sold their stories and style to smaller newspapers to use.

News began to travel at unprecedented speeds thanks to the telegraph, radio, and television. With the later invention of computers and the Internet, both the professionalism and scope of news outlets greatly increased. As news became more present in daily life, journalism was considered a growing career choice and colleges started offering classes in the subject.

Journalism today knows no limits. Like the outlets used in the Press Corps Committee, many agencies still focus on hard news (which was the focus of most newspapers in the past). However, agencies are able to reach audiences of every shape and form thanks to the Internet, and thus there are news tailored towards many different people. Articles can be sensationalist, light-hearted, lifestyle-oriented, business-minded, among others, and may be accessed through newspapers, computers, phones, TV channels, apps, or any other medium of communication.

The amount of news in the world can be overwhelming, especially with the rise of opinion and interpretive journalism that changes how world events are perceived. But true journalists hold the responsibility of writing truthfully, ethically, and promptly. Journalism is about gathering and spreading information in ways that are honest and beneficial to the public.

Pressure to deliver news promptly using the Internet's ability to publish within seconds has caused many outlets to release articles that are not factual. This should be avoided, as it can cause confusion and harm the credibility of the journalist and agency in question. However, being late to cover an event may lead to a loss in revenue. On top of this, it's difficult for news sources to fact-check current events, as they are constantly evolving and changing. Nonetheless, no news agency should ever purposefully publish false information.

Journalism also includes more data now than it had previously. Statistics and poll results are often used as a helpful addition to a story, but are also frequently incomplete and unethically sourced. Data can oftentimes be skewed to one side of a narrative and journalists should make sure they interpret the data correctly.

Journalism today is a fast-paced, competitive career. Those who succeed are those who get dirty, ask direct questions, and get to the scene first. They must be able to write notes quickly, synthesize a story on the fly, and edit their own pieces, all within a matter of hours. They must follow an ethical code as well, and be careful not to overstep boundaries when questioning subjects or

releasing information. As the colloquial “fourth branch of government,” serious news agencies have a responsibility to the public to produce accurate, objective articles to inform the public.



# Required Materials/Readings

- Laptop and charger
  - If a laptop is not available or accessible, then a tablet or phone to write, format, and submit articles is acceptable (although these are often harder to use).
  - If no electronics are available for use, articles may be submitted on paper. Each article must be legible and stick to the required formatting guidelines. This should be a last resort.
- Legal Pads, Pens, Pencils, Erasers
  - This is for writing notes within the assigned committees each session. Laptops can be used directly in most cases, but in instances like voting procedures where electronics and communications are banned, pads and pencils will come in handy.
- A Gmail account and access to Google Docs
  - Papers are submitted to the Director and staff through Google Docs using previously-made folders and links. It is strongly encouraged that delegates use a Gmail account to facilitate procedures.
- Parliamentary Procedure Reading
  - While Press Corps itself will not use strict parliamentary procedure, delegates are expected to know it and understand how it functions. All other committees will use this procedure, and Press Corps reporters must be able to work in accordance with this procedure. While a brief overview of procedure has been included in this background guide, this cheat sheet on Harvard Style Parliamentary Procedure is printer-friendly and expands on further points.
- A Camera or Phone with Working Camera
  - Pictures are mandatory for every article. Using a phone camera is recommended, as it is easiest to transfer pictures from the phone to the computer through Google Docs.
- Optional: A Recording Device or Phone with Audio Recording Ability
  - This can be helpful if there is a lot of information going on at one time, or if an interviewee is pressed for time to make a statement and the reporter does not have time for a formal interview.
- SJP Code of Ethics in Journalism Reading
  - Ethics are incredibly important for journalism. Understanding the basics of journalism ethics will help reporters gather news more credibly and efficiently.
- Optional Reading: The Background Guides of All Other GatorMUN committees!
  - Knowing the context of a committee before entering the room is crucial to formulating a story about the topic. If time permits, a quick skim of the positions and backgrounds of other committees will be greatly beneficial. Delegates are advised to skim the background guide of a committee before they enter a committee room.

Delegates of Press Corps will be assigned one of four article types per session: News, Feature, Opinion, and Photo/Social Media.

## **News:**

These articles aim to summarize current events in the most objective, sterile, and informational way. Their goal is only to write about what happened, rather than interpreting the event. Dates, times, people, places, and events are important in news articles. News articles also generally lack the “author’s voice”, meaning that there should be little to no commentary on the events from the author. They also mean to encompass every part of an event, and give a general run down of what happened.

## **Feature:**

Whereas news articles give a general rundown of an event, a feature piece selects only one part of an event and writes mainly about that. For example, if a delegate were to report on committee, a feature piece would be written about particular delegate, a particular vote, or a particular directive/resolution, rather than about the entire happenings of the committee that they witness. While truthful and factual news are still a major part of this article, the author is allowed to express more voice than a standard news piece. They may also express approval or disapproval of their featured topics, but the language used should be mild.

## **Opinion:**

An opinion piece is the place to let the author’s voice shine through. The author should first contextualize the situation using information and factual news so that readers can understand that author’s chosen point of view. Language in these articles can be strong, either in support or opposition of their chosen topic (which can be a single issue like in a feature, or an entire committee like in a news article). The closest comparison to an opinion piece would be an argumentative essay: the writing should reflect a personal opinion and use evidence to support it.

## **Photo/Social Media:**

This type of article is unique in that it really isn’t an article. This category is about drawing in audiences from online sources. The main focus of this piece is to find and take exciting, interest-sparking pictures to post online to pique the audience’s curiosity. Additionally, the art of creating a hook headline is explored. With limited characters to use per post, the journalist here has to make every word count. They must be able to attract readers with very little content to show them. Since no lengthy writing is involved, Photo/Social Media delegates are also in charge of producing more content per session.

# Formatting an Article

## Paragraphs

Paragraphs in journalism are generally shorter than in essays. A paragraph should only be three to four sentences long at the maximum. It is okay to have one sentence be a paragraph, and is encouraged for showing transitions or emphasis (if well done). Paragraphs should NOT be indented; they should remain as a block.

## Pictures

Pictures should be visually clear. They should identify a place, person, event, or action that is relevant to the article. Pictures that include a person's face must get permission from the person for their image to be used and published. Every picture should come with a caption, which should be done in a smaller text that is italicised.

## Title

A headline should be the largest text in the article, and should be followed by the author's name (in the case of this committee, the name of the news agency you are representing should be here instead). Titles vary depending on the type of article. News headlines should be eye-catching yet stark, whereas Features, Opinions, and Photo/Social Media are given more freedom to show voice in the headline. They need to be well-worded and concise.

## General Guidance

The way an article looks adds to its professionalism. On top of the guidelines above for writing, it is incredibly important to check for spelling, grammar, and syntax. If using an outside source to write about a topic, citations are absolutely mandatory. In general, outside sources should not be used, as the author's own reporting and information gathering skills are more important. Adding something simple like page numbers and headers, as well as the agency's logo to the pages of an article, can add to its overall aesthetic. Adding a date is important, and adding a city/place is a nice touch.

# Questions for Delegates to Consider

## **Researching before committee**

What are the basic summaries of each committee?

What is the general APA format for writing news stories?

How am I going to be writing notes, editing articles, and taking pictures?

## **While writing an article**

What story best fits the format/article type being written? Should the article be broad or narrow in scope?

How does the language used correspond to the format of submission?

How can an article highlight what the author wants to express while still including an overview of the topic as a whole?

Pictures can often make an impact on the tone of a piece. What pictures best fit the article type being written?

## **While interviewing or gathering information**

Who needs to be interviewed? Who can be glossed over?

Does anyone need to be interviewed at all, or can the information needed be found by listening to committee?

The audience does not need every detail. Who can provide the information that your audience needs?

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