



APL MUN

*Determined Action Today
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***INTERNATIONAL PRESS CORPS
(IPC)***

BACKGROUND GUIDE

2019



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Letter from the Heads of IPC

"The free press is the mother of all our liberties and of our progress under liberty"
-Adlai E. Stevenson

Dear delegates,

It is our utmost pleasure to welcome you all to the International Press Corps of APL MUN 2018.

In today's world, the public has been overwhelmed with fraudulent accounts that have had catastrophic consequences in the past. Embellished facts that have little to no other purpose than to serve a personal agenda have been more prevalent than ever, and the press; true, nonpartisan perspectives that push through this mirage of truth, has become more imperative than ever before.

In addition, the role of the free press is of paramount significance. The free press is a cornerstone of democracy, and the lack of it allows for the inevitable rise of tyranny and authoritarianism. In spite of this, there have been calls to limit the reach of the press, and this will no doubt add to the conflict our community faces at this point in time.

IPC aims to give delegates the indispensable opportunity to be the press the world so desperately needs, to report on committee occurrences whilst representing various news agencies. This gives them the unique chance to incorporate the philosophies of a real-time media outlet. IPC provides a platform in which one is able to express their individuality through their illustrations, their panorama through photography and their perspectives through the art of writing.

Furthermore, we will be giving away awards for the best reporting team, illustrator and photographer. We sincerely hope that you have an enriching experience and we wish you nothing but the best in your journalistic endeavors!

Best regards,
Aishwarya Alla, Head of IPC
Harini Padmanaban, Deputy Head of IPC

2019



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Conference Preparation: Reporters

Reporters are the backbone of any news agency, and this will prove no different at APL MUN. As reporters, delegates will be in charge of depicting committee proceedings to the readers. They may evaluate the committees and comment on prevalent topics of discussion, they may report on blocs that have been formed, they may even choose to criticize countries for their inefficiency, or applaud them for their productivity. *We are accepting registrations from external delegates for the position of reporter this year.*

Registration Process

You will need to submit one article ranging from 600-1000 words about one of the following three topics:

Current Crisis in Sudan

Annexation of Crimea

Socio-economic crisis in Venezuela

We would require your articles to be opinionated with a clear expression of your perspective on the topic you have chosen. Please remember to specify delegation type (individual or school), school name (if applicable), and your phone number along with the article submission.

Please send in your articles to aplmunpress@gmail.com by the *August 21st*.

Types of Media

Reporters will use written articles as the main form of journalism.

1. Opinionated Article: An opinion piece written during the MUN should differ to your application's piece in that it should include your judgement of the proceedings of the committee you are assigned to as well as its agenda. Once again expression is imperative, but propriety is even more so. Reporters have the freedom to be as critical or as indulgent as preferred, but personal biases have no place in the piece.

2. Press Conference: Each reporting team will formulate hard hitting questions addressed to individual delegates and/or entire committees and pose them during a press release. Humour is appreciated and interrogating delegates is permitted. However, as always, decorum and propriety must be maintained. If put into a situation where two teams are covering the same committee, you may have to compete with them in order to ask questions; quick reflexes and rapid rebuttals will be necessary.

2019



APL MUN

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3. Live report: An impromptu verbal account of specific events of importance that occurred during committee with a snappy headline. We would be pulling you out of committee with little notice and you will be given minimal time to prepare.

During the Conference

Should you be chosen to participate in the APL MUN conference, you will be required to submit the following:

One Opinionated article (with reference to the agenda and committee proceedings) minimum 800 words

Hold one Press Conference (10-15 minutes long)

One live report- 2 minutes long. You'll be pulled out of committee at our discretion and be given minimum time to prepare your headline.

During the MUN, you would be assigned a News Agency that you would represent and reporting for. Based on the political views and general style of your respective News Agency, you are urged to adopt the same for your own articles. You will be marked accordingly.

Additional Information to keep in mind:

- Please note that as a part of IPC, you must maintain decorum in committee.
- A catchy title is always appreciated. Your article must grab the attention of the readers immediately.

Your work will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Accuracy:** Your article needs to have relevant content. Facts stated must be accurate. This is also in respect to committee proceedings. Before you craft your articles (especially for the beat) an outline should be created, stating facts and events that will be included. This should then be run through by the respective chairs in committee to ensure that there is no out of bounds exaggeration.
- **Originality:** Any plagiarised work will be disqualified immediately. The written pieces must be the product of the reporting team's own work. External sources from which any data is borrowed must explicitly be cited.
- **Style:** Word choice, fluency and sentence structure matters. The way you express the various events that took place in committee is also important. Try to include unorthodox/humorous figures of speech. Refrain from satire. Your content needs to be appropriate. Adherence to the style of your agency is also taken into account.

2019



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- **Clarity:** The content of the article needs to be presented in such a way that it does not allow confusion amidst the readers. The presentation of the article needs to be systematic and clear.
- **Grammar:** Of course, it being an article for Press, grammar is of utmost importance. Since you'll be using Microsoft Word to submit your final draft, we hope that there won't be many errors.
- **Allure:** Your writing is going to be read by a lot of people. Your work has to be interesting enough for the reader to stay captivated and continue reading. Humor is highly recommended. Appeal to your audience and make sure you're proud of what you produce in the end.
- **Efficiency:** How quickly you submit your article in the time frame given without compromising on quality. Any articles submitted after the deadline will be discarded.

Proposed Format

Your opinion piece can be in any format or style you see as suitable; we fully encourage you to break away from the norms of mundane writing and be creative. However, there are certain literary devices we would like you to make use of.

- Establishment of a clear thesis, or the portrayal of an overarching theme/idea throughout your article.
- Counter arguments
- The use of appropriate transition statements between ideas.
- The use of an abstract below your title; a summary of your article in maximum 40 words, which should encourage the audience to read the entire article.
- Whatever format you choose to use, it must be discernible. There must be a logical flow of thoughts.
- It is recommended that your article begins with an introduction and ends with a conclusion.
- ***The article must be written in paragraphs.***

2019



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Conference Preparation: Illustrators

Illustrators use their artistic talent and humorous personalities to break the sobriety of debate. They are responsible for relaying committee proceedings to the reader in a light hearted, entertaining manner. They showcase the heart of APLMUN in the form of cartoons. This year, we will also be introducing a new role for illustrators pre-conference. Illustrators will be required to create cartoons of the dias, That will then be posted on social media in order to publicise the event.

Registration Process

Each applicant will have to send samples of artworks (black and white preferable), depicting scenes of irony and humour on world/political events while keeping in mind to not be insensitive while doing so, to the Heads of IPC in order to be eligible. Please send in your application by **August 21st**.

A few tips to note:

- Please do send a minimum of 5 pieces of your work.
- Do not use profanity or draw inappropriate things in the works you are submitting.
- Do take a look at the artwork of the previous illustrators of APLMUN 2017/2018 for inspiration.
- Please email your artwork to aplmunpress@gmail.com along with the attachments of your artworks please do not forget to mention your name, your grade, and the position you are applying for.

Your work must be about any current event that has captured your interest, with your own comedic twist on the subject matter. However (both in your samples and as an official illustrator), it is of utmost importance that you maintain propriety and decorum, and while irony is appreciated, avoid highly sensitive topics.

2019



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During the Conference

You will be working individually. Once assigned a committee, you are required to observe committee proceedings over the course of two days and do your best to record amusing and humorous events in the form of cartoons.

You will need to submit a total of five cartoons during the MUN.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- **Tidiness:** Being cartoons, we'd appreciate it if they were neat and visible. Any words/phrases should be legible. Please make sure eraser marks, dirt, etc can't be seen.
- **Style:** Make them your own. We want to see original work, but have fun with it. Also make sure to keep them appropriate.
- **Expression:** Humor humor humor. Refrain from satire, but go ahead with sarcasm and anything inoffensive. Also refrain from fabricating anything. All your cartoons must contain things that actually happened in committee, but keep in mind that mild exaggeration is certainly not frowned upon.

Please keep the following in mind while drawing:

- Refrain from drawing staff members. Cartoons of just delegates and EB members are sufficient.
- **Good scanning is essential.** Blurry cartoons won't make it onto the newsletter. Please ensure that they are visible and clear. For this, try to download a scanning app on your phone beforehand. If this is not possible, inform the Heads of IPC. We will be sure to help out.
- **Maintain propriety.** Any inappropriate drawings or words will be reported.

2019



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Conference Preparation: Photographers

No article would be complete without images. Photographs provide readers with the most accurate of depictions. A good photographer is able to transport the viewer directly to the event and allow them to experience it as if they were actually present.

Registration Process

Each applicant will have to send samples of previous photographs to the Heads of IPC in order to be eligible. You would need to send your application by **August 21st**.

Notes to remember:

- Please do send about 7-12 images. The more the merrier.
- Please email your work to aplmunpress@gmail.com
- Along with the attachments of your photographs, please do not forget to mention your name, your grade, and what position you are applying for.

Your sample work must be of people and must not have any editing at the time of submission. Any photographs submitted must also have been taken with a professional camera, any photographs taken with a phone will be immediately disqualified.

2019



APL MUN

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During the Conference

You will be working individually. Once assigned a committee, you are required to observe committee proceedings over the course of two days and do your best to record committee proceedings in photograph form.

Each Photographer must submit a minimum of 60. This is the minimum required to be eligible for the award, however you can send more photographs if preferred. Please make sure at least 30 images are submitted on Day 1.

You will be judged on the following criteria:

- Content
- Relevance
- Clarity

Please keep in mind the following:

- Photographers will have to bring their own camera. Cameras will not be provided by the school.
- Clarity is essential. Blurry pictures will not make it onto the newsletter.
- Maintain propriety. Any inappropriate images will be reported.

Tips and General Information

- An email detailing deadlines, dress code, contact details and other necessary information will be sent to you in the weeks leading up to the APL MUN.
- All IPC delegates are free to enter and leave committee as they please. This privilege should not be taken advantage of. Please avoid disrupting committee proceedings or causing distractions, try to always maintain decorum. If the Chair of a committee thinks you are hindering the progress of the committee, they have the authority to eject you and this will affect your chances for any awards you may be otherwise eligible for.
- Allow your own style and creativity to permeate your work. This guide is intended to be just that, a guide. It is not intended to be a ceiling on your individuality. Even though you are tied to the philosophy of a particular news agency, please note that while you must represent their interests in your beats/press conferences/interviews, you do not have to do so in your opinionated articles.

2019



APL MUN

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- At any point if any questions arise, you can contact the Heads of IPC at aplmun@apl.edu.in. We will respond as quickly as possible.
- During APLMUN, do not hesitate to approach the Heads of IPC, or anyone else on the OC if needed. We don't bite!
- HAVE FUN! Press is challenging work, but it is rewarding. Don't stress yourself out!

Reporters:

- Reporting delegates of IPC are not required to perform extensive research, however reading your committee's background guide will give you a significant advantage in terms of content, especially considering the requirement for at least one opinionated articles to be submitted. Take advantage of the resources available to you! Also be sure to do research on your assigned agency; the level of integration with said agency is something you are being evaluated on.
- Always write beat articles and press conferences in third person. Opinionated articles are more flexible and are subject to the reporter's discretion. Delegates should be referred to by their country allotments and not the individual's name.
- Write in the active voice as much as possible, try to avoid the passive voice. This is to ensure maximum interaction between the article and the readers. Keep in mind you will not be penalized if you decide to use passive voice.
- Avoid over complicating your writing. Remember your audience and address them accordingly.
- When using more outside-the-box writing techniques, please exercise caution. Ensure you utilise them correctly and once again, always remember your audience.
- During interviews and press conferences, try to avoid asking yes/no questions. Allow for elaboration by asking open ended questions. It is also worth noting that this is your opportunity to really display one of the essential skills of being a journalist; getting a story. Do your best to pay attention in committee in order to notice anything that you could use to formulate your compelling questions. Try doing your best to ensure delegates answer your questions. If a delegate makes a controversial statement, particularly in conjunction with another delegation, call them out on it! Do not accept claims at face value. Always follow up where possible.
- During the press conference, try to prepare several follow up questions in addition to the main questions.
- It is of utmost importance that you are able to be diplomatic, be it during a press conference or when you are writing an article. Be aggressive with your questions, but remember to remain diplomatic in your tone. This guide could be akin to a bible; use it.

2019



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Photographers and Illustrators:

Photographers and Illustrators may find it beneficial to read their committee's background guides to better understand the committee proceedings and better record the events. This will allow you to recognise when something is imperative to your photographs or illustrations. It will also give you a general idea of country delegations that you could benefit from paying attention to.

Always maintain propriety and sensitivity to others when drawing or taking photographs of proceedings. If a delegate asks you not to submit a specific illustration or photograph, listen to them.

Delegates should be referred to by the country allotments and not the individual's name.

Useful Links:

[APLMUN Book 2018](#)

[APLMUN Book 2017](#)

[APLMUN Book 2016](#)

2019