



# IP

## BACKGROUND GUIDE

### *Journalism*



Dear Journalists,

Welcome on board.

It is with immense pride and pleasure that we welcome you at the International Press (IP) in this edition of Meridian MUN 2021.

This platform will give you an opportunity to harness and improve your abilities in the media world. At the conference, we aim to produce a brief and perfunctory newsletter that illustrates the complete day's event to the best of our capabilities.

This is a guide that will take you step by step in the realm of what are you going to face in the two days of the conference. This guide will take you through the notion and the methodology you will have to follow and together we can create what we aspire. Best wishes. I look forward to work with you all.

Thank You,

*Shreya Chatterjee*

International Press Head

*Pragnya Ammireddy*

Editor-in-Chief

## **TYPES OF CONTENTS**

### **Beat-based Article (300-450 words)-**

It is virtually impossible to report every Caucus/Point in your article. Therefore, your focus should not be on putting in as much information as you can, but to put in only the relevant information. The best way to include the most pertinent information in your article is to recognize a 'beat' and write a beat-based article. A beat-based article is essentially a specialized article wherein the journalist presents an in-depth coverage of a particular issue, situation, institution, or likewise, and which also involves amassment of more knowledge than a traditional news report. The beat of such an article, then, is a central idea around which the contents of the article are formed. Ideally, it is the core concern or subject and should pertain to every single line used in the forming of the article. You shall be able to identify the beat of the day's discussion only through careful observation and attention, so be sure you are present, mentally and physically, during all formal sessions.

### **Opinionnaire or Op-Ed articles (400-500 words)-**

You may choose to write Editorials on one or more of the debates on- going in the council. Reporters may write Op-Eds for the newsletter after they have finished reporting from the council, which may include their take on the agenda. Editorials or Op-Eds do not have to contain any information on what happened in the council/committee but concerns what the author thinks of the discussion at hand. Editorials and Op-Eds have to be very high in standards of writing and expression, and publication shall be at the subject of discretion of the Editorial Board.

In clear words, Editorials and Op-Eds differ from News articles in matters of substance than events.

**Interview Report (ideally one page long)-**

Interviews may take place with the consent of the individual in question. Since this will be a form of personal interaction – it is important to ask permission before printing anything discussed in the interview. While professional interviews extend to all participants and members of Executive Board, we urge you to also hold informal interviews which may include satire if need be.

Interviews must not disrupt any ongoing committee proceedings and must be done during break time or during an arranged time slot other than the ones allotted for committee sessions.

**ACCURACY:**

- Sourcing: You are expected to use sources unaltered. Cross- check and corroborate information wherever possible and be honest while citing them.
- Quotes- Make sure that the quotes are not altered except to delete and random and redundant word from the quote that do not make sense in the quote itself otherwise. Quotes should be accompanied with relevant context and circumstances. Also, do not forget to mention who are you quoting and make sure that the spelling is correct.
- Take no sides, tell all sides- Balance and fairness are classic buzzwords of journalism ethics. Reports must be balanced in the sense of attempting to present

all sides of the story. You should strive for accuracy and truth in reporting and not slant a story so a reader draws the reporter's desired conclusion.

### **MARKING SCHEME:**

1. Content/ Essence.
2. Creativity
3. Vocabulary
4. Grammar and the language proficiency
5. Paragraph structure
6. Punctuations
7. Punctuality and instructions adhered

#### **General Information:**

- Font- Times New Roman • Heading Font Size: 18.
- Font size for the Body - 14.
- All the articles must have a by-line. By-line font size 16.
- Your article should include the name of the journalist, and the date.
- All the articles should have the filename in this format- name of the journalist\_type of article\_committee.
- A maximum of 12 percent plagiarism will be allowed.

### **PRESS CONFERENCE**

It is basically when a press delegate enters the committee and begins to question delegates on their stance on the agenda at hand. The questions that are put across could be in a way to intimidate delegates and a delegate who is composed, and answers correctly is always favoured. The questions that are put up by the journalists are normally sharp ripping half-baked arguments into shreds.

## A CARICATURIST'S HANDBOOK

A caricaturist's role in a conference is extremely crucial as they are required to put forward the essence of the whole conference through visuals so that everyone, including people who haven't read about any of the topics, can comprehend the matter. It is vital that the caricaturists themselves understand the topic before creating anything as it may mislead people.

### TYPES OF CARTOONS

- **AGENDA BASED:** these cartoons are based, as the name suggests, on the agenda of your allotted committee. This will specifically be on the agenda rather than the debate taking place in the committee.
- **SATIRICAL:** these cartoons show anything funny happening in your committee. However, humour should have its limits. These cartoons should not be offending to anyone in anyway.
- **FILLERS:** these carry extra marks, the more relevant fillers you submit, the more brownie points you get. They can be anything, agenda based, committee based, humorous etc.
- **COMMITTEE BASED:** This will specifically be on the type of debate taking place in the committee. You can make use of the delegates quotes and make an informative piece. It is advised that even the caricaturists be present for the entire committee to make full use of it for your committee-based cartoons.

## JUDGEMENT CRITERIA

- Originality
- Creativity
- Relevance to the topic
- Neatness
- Punctuality
- Agenda specific criteria (miscellaneous)

MUNs are all about debate and solutions. It may get boring at times but always leads to fruitful solutions. The caricaturists have the job of converting the committee`s fun to cartoons and bring to life the debates. You can always use the internet for inspiration but please ensure that your pieces are original and are appropriate. A caricaturist`s job overall is one of fun because you get to report not only the delegates of different countries or members of different constituencies, you also can report on how the committee itself was, i.e. was the committee divided into two, was the debate fiery, was the committee dormant and boring, was the EB yelling etc. With this we welcome you to meridian MUN 2021, research vastly, bring out your art supplies and most importantly, have fun and learn.

Regards,

Shreya Chatterjee

IP head

Pragnya Ammireddy

Editor-in-hief