

STUDY GUIDE

PRESS

15-17 FEBRUARY 2019



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Executive Board Biographies

Jessie Lim is a third-year student majoring in Political Science at the National University of Singapore (NUS). Having spent two years gallivanting in the South of France while completing the first half of the NUS-Sciences Po Double Degree Programme, Jessie is happy to be back on home territory and has decided to take a second plunge into the Singaporean MUN scene. In between self-imposed hiatuses, Jessie has served as a Deputy Secretary General (DSG) of Publicity for UNASMUN (2015) and the English Content Supervisor for MEDMUN (2017) since she started her MUN journey as an overwhelmed 15-year-old. She is also part of the Acads team helping this year's edition of the Asia-Pacific Model United Nations Conference (AMUNC).

Outside of her three-day work week, Jessie enjoys good conversations, long walks, food adventures, and reading existentialist novels. Perhaps she should be more involved in student journalism, but Jessie would rather try something new, having interned at a food magazine and national broadsheet previously. Feel free to drop her an email at jessiethelim@gmail.com

Tay Hong Yi is a sophomore reading politics, law and economics at the Singapore Management University (SMU). MUN is akin to a paramour for him, a relationship that may be characterised as sporadic, yet deeply-intense. In 2019, he has decided to introduce his paramour to his other passion of writing by chairing the Press Corps for both NTUMUN and



the Asia-Pacific Model UN Conference come July. Previously, Hong Yi was Editor-in-Chief of the Press Corps at the Yale-NUS Asia-Pacific Model UN in 2017. As a delegate, he was awarded Best Parliamentarian at the Singapore Model Parliament in 2014. He has undertaken journalism internships at local newspapers in both 2017 and last year,

in 2018, where he was tasked with news reporting and digital sub-editing. In his free time, Hong Yi enjoys occupying himself with his own independent writing projects, which have been published on platforms such as the Singapore Policy Journal. He may be contacted at tayhongyi@gmail.com



Introduction to Committee

“Humanity alone of the animals is furnished with the faculty of language”, said Aristotle. Language enables the uniquely human capacity for rich, meaningful communication. If so, journalism is a specific avenue to exercise this capacity. It is a social endeavour to record, express and share the human experience of anomalous events through the written word and multimedia, so that we may have a better understanding of the world beyond our immediate reach.

In that spirit, we – Jessie and Hong Yi – believe the NTUMUN Press Corps should aspire to the highest standards of journalism by connecting both participants within the conference and external readers. At its most basic, this endeavour entails chronicling the happenings of conference: what happened? Even this might not be straightforward if what happened is disputed by the actors involved, or where direct observation yields little insights.

Indeed, it is the ability to tease out the subliminal that distinguishes mere journalism from great journalism. The subliminal can be extracted through various means, including contextualising issues under debate beyond the content of conference speeches, unravelling complex delegate alliances and hard-hitting interviews into the motivations of individual delegates. This inevitably brings in an element of personal discretion due to the need for interpretation. Moreover, political persuasions of news agencies differ, depending on both their relationship to government and opinions of journalists. All these factors imply the same set of facts can be used to generate wildly-different stories. Press Corps delegates are



expected to produce a body of work broadly consistent with the real-life editorial slants and specialisation of each organisation.

Through both curating and generating diverse perspectives on the issues discussed within all committees, the Press Corps serves to provide a macroscopic view of geopolitical interactions for all participating delegates beyond the specialisation of each committee. The Press Corps is also the main avenue for delegates to present their cases to the court of public opinion, refine their arguments for individual policy positions and promote high-quality discourse. Clearly, Press Corps delegates are of paramount importance in this Conference.

This Guide aims to help Press Corps delegates live up to their role by understanding what journalism is and how to do it well. By understanding journalism from the creators' perspective, we also hope that Press Corps delegates will also becoming more discriminating and critical consumers of journalism long after the simulacrum of conference is over. Please feel free to contact us by email at jessiethelim@gmail.com and tayhongyi@gmail.com should you have any comments, queries or suggestions about this guide or the conference.



News Organisation Summaries

The Press Corps of NTUMUN 2019 consists of five news organisations, each staffed by 10 Press delegates. Apart from the responsibility of releasing statements from NTUMUN, interviewing the Editors and delegates of the various councils, and maintaining a Press Blog, NTUMUN Press delegates may also adapt creative forms of expression such as photojournalism, infographics and satirical comic strips.

Opinions from the West, Middle East and Asia-Pacific will be expressed by Press delegates representing Agence France-Presse, Reuters, Al Jazeera, Xinhua News Agency and Russia Today respectively.

A useful resource for figuring out the political slants of the news organisation you are assigned would be the Media Bias Chart, which can be found at <https://www.adfontesmedia.com/>. We also strongly recommend reading the coverage of your assigned news organisation in real life to observe its editorial slant in practice.

Agence France-Presse:

Currently the third largest newswire (supplier of bulletin-style factual information to news organisations such as newspapers) in the world, Agence France-Presse (AFP) places squarely in the top echelon of *any news reporting institution*. It has unsurpassed capacity in





both breadth and depth of reporting, accumulated since its founding in 1835 by journalists in the crucible that was the French Resistance. AFP operates over 150 bureaux worldwide.

Newswires like AFP provide first-hand reports of events worldwide. Their main focus is breaking news, particularly of major events that greatly affect the human condition. This includes war and political reporting, two especially tough subjects that most news organisations lack the capacity to access. However, their global reach, reputation and resources allow at least moderately in-depth reporting on topics of general relevance to society. More focused news organisations, such as those specialising in a given topic, industry or region, fill in the gaps.

Accordingly, AFP engages in clear factual reporting. They observe and describe. They neither ponder nor project. Even emotionally-charged opinions are explicitly described as *expressions* of opinion by their originators. Put simply, they – and other newswires – are the closest to pure messengers in journalism. This commitment to impartiality has been institutionalised. We recommend reading the [AFP Charter](#) to get an idea of the checks and balances in place to maintain it.

Reuters:

Pipping AFP to second place in the newswire size stakes is Reuters. Initially founded as the “Reuters Telegram Company” in 1851 by Paul Julius Reuter, the small platform for current affairs and financial news broadcasting has grown into a media behemoth that occupies the same rarefied space as the Associated Press (the largest newswire) and AFP.





Several major innovations in journalism, such as such as international news radio broadcasts, emerged from its London headquarters. It follows a strict “value-neutral” approach, refraining from emotive terms or denigrating any religious or political community through their articles. A controversial exemplification of this approach is its explicit avoidance of the word “terrorist” in its reports. Nonetheless, Reuters remains a stalwart for news organisations looking for wire content to work with. The [Thomson Reuters Trust Principles](#), like the AFP Charter, codifies this institutionalised commitment to its business as a newswire.

Al Jazeera:

Like AFP nearly two centuries ago, Al Jazeera’s founding was fraught with political overtones. However, it has never quite shed the controversy that engulfed (pun not intended) its founding in 1996. Owned by Qatar’s monarchy, it now reports from approximately 80 bureaux worldwide. It emerged out of international obscurity after becoming the first and only news network covering the Bush administration’s “war on terrorism” in Afghanistan live. It also distinguished itself from regional competitors by its cosmopolitan and relatively progressive coverage that bear close resemblance to established international news organisations from the West.

Claims of editorial independence have been met with skepticism due to the risk of the news organisation being an outlet for Qatari propaganda beholden to the government. However, Al Jazeera has maintained that loans and grants are their funding sources rather than direct government subsidies. Industry observers and former employees have also





alleged the news organisation is biased towards Islamist groups such as the Muslim Brotherhood in Egypt. In protest against this alleged bias, 22 journalists resigned in 2013. Additionally, the previous Emir of Qatar – father of the incumbent – revealed in a televised interview on “60 Minutes” that the news organisation was founded to promote democracy, endorse progressive social causes and inspire regime change in the region.

Xinhua News Agency:

Ranking at 176 out of 180 countries in the World Press Freedom Index last year, the People’s Republic of China is hardly a haven for journalists. As China’s state-run mouthpiece, Xinhua News Agency dominates the media landscape. It is only rivalled by the People’s Daily, the official newspaper of the Communist Party of China (CCP).

Since its inception in 1931 as the Red China News Agency, Xinhua has had close ties to the Chinese state, remaining subordinate to the State Council, which is the top executive body led by the premier. With more than 100 bureaux – including one for every Chinese province – Xinhua’s reach even extends beyond national borders, considering that its publications are printed in eight languages.

With no pretensions to editorial independence, Xinhua’s website even features a beat devoted to promoting one of Xi Jinping’s key policies, the mass innovation and entrepreneurship (or shuang chuang in Chinese) campaign. The agency is also known for its conservative but rigorous coverage of foreign and business news.





Russia Today:

Not unlike Xinhua News Agency, Russia Today's government ties compromise any claims to political neutrality. Founded in 2005, the cable news network was initially conceived as a government effort to improve the way Russia was perceived in different parts of the world. Although RT is based in Moscow, it has expanded its operations to Europe and beyond.

With an estimated audience of 700 million viewers, RT's presence is strongly felt in the English-speaking world. Indeed, its programmes – such as financial talkshow Keiser Report – frequently promote the narrative of declining American hegemony, with Keiser going as far as calling the USA a soon-to-be “second tier country”. The radio silence of RT in the face of political scandals that rocked Russia is also revealing of the loyalties of this Kremlin-backed network. Speculations were raised that a blanket ban was in place after RT cited a “persistent lack of evidence” of the doping scandal that Russian athletes who competed in the London 2012 Olympics were engulfed in.

What kind of articles can I write?

Acknowledging that debate ebbs and flows within committees, we do not expect Press delegates to produce a fixed number of articles. However, all Press delegates are expected to produce at least **two** articles every day.





Beyond factual news articles on what transpired, you may also write feature stories that focus on the big picture, profile delegations or chairpersons, or write opinion editorials based on your original research.

Fun submissions using alternative media like cartoons or photo essays are also welcome, but do balance it with more serious ones. Speculation is allowed for gossip and opinion pieces, but Editors reserve the right to flag out speculation that does not add value to the article or is prejudicial to the personal conduct or image of a delegate.

The repertoire of a potential Best Press Delegate should include articles that succinctly and accurately summarize committee proceedings, as well as articles that challenge the dominant narrative or offer a different spin on issues, players, or format of production. Ideally, the best articles should combine form and substance but we understand that NTUMUN 2019 presents a steep learning curve and hope to simplify the process for first-timer delegates.

It must be stressed that no idea (outside of inordinately inane or malicious ones) is completely out-of-bounds. Pitch your idea to Editors and take ownership of it! Strive to submit text articles with at least one photo: find our official photographers for help or take your own with a phone camera.

Who should I speak to?



Speak to all types of people: the Committee Chairs and delegates, both quiet and gregarious. Get your insight from a diverse group. You may directly quote from speeches in session or solicit interviews with delegates. Speaking to many sides ensures you get a good sense of what is happening; you don't have to use everyone's quotes.



Position Paper Guidelines

A position paper is required to encourage delegates to research the policy positions that their state is likely to adopt, according to the constraints, costs and benefits that are peculiar to their regime. It is also needed to allow Committee chairs a reference point to gauge the delegate's understanding of their position, how they intend to advance it and to check (during committee sessions) if they have remained faithful to it.

In lieu of a position paper, we would like all Press delegates to submit a **pre-conference article of 350-600 words** on a committee topic of their choice. The form of the article is also left to your choice. It may be anything from a deeply-personal opinion article to a dispassionate preamble article summarising the real-life global context of a given topic; you are limited only by your imagination and the professionalism required of a journalist.

However, it is highly-recommended that should your news organisation have a clear agenda or vested interest in perpetuating a certain narrative (eg. for *de facto* government mouthpieces), a topic, scope and angle that allows this slant to be demonstrated be adopted. Do read the real-life coverage of your assigned news organisation to get a sense of their preferred expressions, vocabulary and sentence structures, all linguistic features that exist independently of house-style.



The Position Paper is to be submitted by **12 February, 2019**. Since this article is a means for you to experiment with the kind of articles that you will be required to write during the committee sessions themselves, it **will follow the format for articles mentioned below in the 'Writing' section**. Although the article(s) is due before the conference begins, we urge you to take this task seriously! Not only is there an award for **Best Position Paper**; the position paper is also taken into consideration while considering a delegate for the 'Best Press Delegate' award.



Writing

This section covers the technicalities of journalistic writing. The next, covers the process of gathering information to write about. This might look like putting the cart before the horse. After all, gathering information is chronologically prior to the act of writing. However, these are certain general principles that structure journalistic writing. These principles help news organisations best realise their purpose of informing readers by allowing information to be succinctly expressed and conveyed, without compromising on detail. Doing so allows even readers under duress, distraction or simply in a rush to to maximise their understanding of the report's content (especially written content).

Compelling, informative, enriching journalism begins with the **headline**. It is the gateway into any story. A good headline summarises the crux (or **news point**) of the story. It should clearly express the most important thing that happened to justify the very existence of a self-contained story. What is it that made an article even worth writing to inform readers, distinguishing it from any other story? The headline should adopt a linguistic **tone** consistent with the level of solemnity or light-heartedness in the subject matter of the story. The main considerations in setting a tone are the **intention, audience and theme**. Ultimately, this is a partly-subjective call that relies on your own social sensibilities, though constrained by the stance and specialisation of your organisation. Remember to credit yourself for your writing with a **byline**.





The headline, news point and tone often vary depending on the **angle**. The notion of an “angle” seems at first blush interchangeable with that of “tone”. An angle is, broadly speaking, the choice of conceptual focus in reporting an event, while “tone” deals with what linguistic expression connotes (eg. euphemism). It mainly encompasses:

- the choice of theme (for instance in war stories, do we talk about the humanitarian, geopolitical or military strategic dimension?)
- the choice of which element of the event covered to emphasise (would you humanise individuals through profiles, or provide depersonalised policy coverage?)

The angle is informed by the intended audience. The journalist, editor and (more generally) the publication, makes a judgment about the likely interest and circumstances of most readers. For instance, a Singaporean newspaper might be inclined to cover the implications of the Paris Climate Agreement on Singapore as a low-lying Equatorial island city-state threatened by rising sea levels. A newspaper in a landlocked state with a temperate climate might choose to focus on increasingly extreme swings in seasonal temperature. Both angles are equally valid, being scrupulously chosen to maximise the relevance of the report to the readers.

After figuring out the headline and angle, the journalist goes on to crafting the **lede** (or **lead paragraph**, or **nut graf**). This is the first (or first couple) of paragraphs that complements the headline to provide an accurate, succinct summary of the story as a whole. It should attract attention. Common methods to do so (other than bald statements of fact) include the use of relevant imagery consistent with the article’s overall tone, invoking trivia



and citing statistics. The headline and lede should work together to effectively inform even the most time-pressed reader who scarcely reads beyond the first few lines.

With all that done, you can then proceed to the **body** of the article, recounting events using **reported speech**. Quotes must be **attributed** where possible: provide the **name, age and occupation** (in this case, which delegation the quoted delegate is from) of quoted delegates. **Do not make up your own quotes**. Minor rephrasing for clarity and omitting excess verbosity without changing meaning is permissible.

The **ending** should strive to provide a degree of closure, such as through quotes that invite readers to consider the broader implications of the news covered.

*Please ensure that you write up a **short caption** to accompany each photo (if you include one). Each caption should specify the names of the persons involved (in a clear order from: left to right, clockwise to anticlockwise if applicable and bottom row to top row if applicable), their designations, and the relevant action depicted. Your **credits** to the photographer should read "Taken by (photographer name)".*

House-Style





We have outlined (under “Writing” and “News Gathering”) the practical execution of journalistic work. Now we address perhaps the most mundane, but nonetheless necessary, element of journalism – the house-style.

House-style simply refers to the codified and standardised guide each news organisation adopts to streamline formatting and punctuation across articles by different journalists. House-styles eliminate formatting inconsistencies that would likely distract readers from getting their daily dose of updates.

A single house-style also helps to reinforce the reality that Press Corps delegates are part of a larger whole. To show the house-style in practice, this entire guide follows the house-style we have designed. We hope this would minimise any residual ambiguity in the non-exhaustive stipulations that follow.

Numbers

Single digits must be spelt out fully (eg. zero, one, two… ten). Use numerals for larger numbers (eg. 23, 34). Orders of magnitude above a million must be spelt out (eg. two million, 34 billion). Use digits for numbers with decimals (eg. 1.2, 34.7, 25.5 million). Round off to one decimal point for large numbers above a million (eg. 25.5 million). Use numerals for numbers below a million and above a thousand, separated with a comma (eg. 230,000; 67,000; 4,500). Round off such numbers to the largest two digits (eg. 234,567 becomes 230,000). Exact numbers may be used where the story requires (eg. The 9/11 attacks killed 2,977 victims; there is special significance to that number as we wish to do justice to the



atrocities victims experienced by representing them to the last person). Never start a sentence with a number.

Percentages

Spell out the word 'percent' (eg. 20 percent; nine percent; 78.9 percent). Round off percentages to one decimal place.

Money

For US dollars and Singapore dollars on first reference (the first time a standardised form of expression is used *within an article*): US\$ and S\$ (eg. US\$25.5 million; S\$6). Simplify to '\$' from second reference onwards (when the same currency is subsequently used again in the article).

For other foreign currencies: spell out the currency name (eg. pounds, euro, yen). Put in brackets the equivalent amount in US\$ on first reference. There is no need to do such a conversion for second reference onwards (eg. 65 million yen). The rationale for that is: even if the reader wanted to know the figure in US\$ (since it is the main currency in global usage currently), they could work out the approximate exchange rate themselves using the bracketed number used on first mention.





Contractions

Do not use contractions (eg. don't or wouldn't) when writing in prose. Contractions are permissible in direct quotes if used in speech by the quote's originator.

Salutations (first and second reference)

Refer to all delegates by the personas they adopt (e.g. the Delegate of the United States of America). On second mention, feel free to use common abbreviations (it is the Delegate of the USA, not the US Delegate).

Abbreviations

On first reference, spell out abbreviations in full with capitalisation (ie. a proper noun), but include the abbreviations in brackets. Use only the abbreviation from second reference onwards.

Dates

Dates should be noted in the Month-Day-Year format (e.g. June 14 1997). For simplicity's sake, use relative terms for the current year as well as the year before and after it. By that, we mean describing 2019 as "this year", 2018 as the "previous year", and 2020 as the "year after". Other relative terms that are permissible include "century" and "millennium".





Quotes

Use double inverted commas for direct quotes. Do not direct quote extensively; use direct quotes sparsely for particularly important, memorable, eloquent, funny or witty lines. Excess words may be omitted using ellipses (eg. “We will...try to use ellipses correctly,” said the Delegate of Rwanda.) Though rephrasing and omitting sections of quotes to clean up grammar, improve logical flow and eliminate verbosity is fine, **do not quote anyone out of context and distort their intended meaning. This applies to both direct and indirect quotes.**

Indirect quotes are permissible using reported speech. Attribute all quotes (direct and indirect), unless the interviewee has explicitly said they are only willing to be quoted on condition of anonymity and their quotes are crucial to the story.

News Gathering

While some journalists have an intrinsic understanding of what is newsworthy, most of us pick up the craft along the way. Even in the hands of the most experienced chef, a good meal starts with the freshest ingredients. Likewise, journalists may have a solid grasp of the



structural elements of an article, but they still require a special nose for sniffing out previously unreported information that readers may be interested in.

Here are some good news gathering practices that may help you churn out a story even from the most mundane observations in committee. Although this list is by no means exhaustive, it may serve as inspiration as you prepare for NTUMUN 2019.

1. **Do your background research:** Research is for verification, contextualisation, and interrogation. It helps you follow the debate and identify the leading and fringe players and the blocs they will form. As you will be moving between committees, it's easy to lose track of the flow of ideas, and you will need a solid and rigorous understanding of the committee and its topics to stay afloat. Having the facts at the tips of your fingers will also help you take delegates who haven't come prepared to task.
2. **Be persistent:** Good journalists grill their interviewees even if they risk being ignored or silenced. If delegates contradict themselves in speeches or you catch them undertaking secret negotiations with the opposite bloc, feel free to question them about their intentions and encourage them to take a firm stance on the various issues being discussed in the committee.
3. **Observe:** A MUN conference is the perfect occasion to pen the occasional colour piece, or a story charged with emotion and rich in sensory detail. More reserved delegates often have compelling reasons for their lack of involvement in committee or their unwillingness to join a bloc. Actions speak louder than words—pay attention to excessive note-passing between certain delegates, negotiators who go back and



forth between blocs, and delegates who cosy up to the Committee Chairs. Unexplained disappearances, especially in crisis, can be suspicious too. The *raison d'être* of news is to identify and convey anomalies that crop up; if the world were in a permanent steady state, the very concept of news would not exist.

Pay attention to speeches that relate to your proposed story idea. Create an audio recording or take good notes (see below) to aid your memory. These details will help you tell a richer story. Focus on what (or who) stands out. Analyse pertinent elements of the issue discussed – what is a delegate's stance? Did a certain delegate change his or her stance as the session went on? What were the results of caucuses called (if any) and, subsequently, the entire session? Was any compromise made from the initial resolution proposed? If there are parts in a resolution that don't make sense or implications left unanswered, follow-up by interviewing delegates.

4. **Take good notes:** Given the relentless deadlines of the newsroom, you need a system to keep track of what he said, she said. A handy notebook is best for jotting down quick-fire responses and the contact details of delegates so that you can get clarifications from them. At the very least, you want to be clear about the delegates that spoke, the speakers to whom they responded to, and the resolution or amendment they were defending.
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Press Conferences

With an arsenal of writing and reporting skills, the journalist is well-equipped to take on his or her next mission: the Press conference. A test of your ingenuity, ability to think on your feet, and commitment to the pursuit of truth, the Press conference is your chance to actively participate in the committees you cover. It is a timely moment to shed light on the discrepancies you may have observed between what delegates say and do, to hold them accountable to their rhetoric, and to put unaddressed but crucial questions on the agenda.

At the Press conference, Press delegates will face the dilemma of whether to collaborate with their peers or to pursue their own self-interest. The notion of a veto held by the other press delegate imbues the Press Corps' work with the competitive dynamic and political intrigue that is the hallmark of Model UN conferences. For instance, why would a Xinhua Press delegate, representing the Chinese Communist Party mouthpiece, accede to a request from Reuters to hold a press conference prejudicial to the foreign policy interests of the CCP? The onus is then on the Reuters delegate to convince the Xinhua delegate, and on the Xinhua delegate to be vigilant and obstruct chances of unfavourable coverage that diminishes their agenda.

Having reached a consensus, both Press delegates within the committee must unanimously agree to call for a Press conference before they approach the committee Chair with a written request to do so. After committee Chairs have approved the request, the Press



Editors will confirm its timing. Press delegates can expect a processing time of an hour for all Press conference requests.

Each Press conference will have a time limit of 15 minutes, which can be extended at the Chairs discretion. Each Press delegate can ask up to two questions, with no limit on follow-up questions, even though the latter are subjected to moderation by Press Editors and committee Chairs. Any delegate can respond to the questions fielded by Press delegates, but delegates who have a compelling interest in the issue being raised will be given priority to respond.

Before concluding the Press conference, the committee will nominate two delegates to summarise the findings.



Awards

Best Position Paper

This award is given to the Press delegate who submits the best pre-conference article. The same judging criteria laid out above apply. In our judgment, we will consider which article best satisfies the judging criteria for article quality, as well as cohering with the real-life editorial slant of their assigned news organisation.

Best Press Delegate

The Best Press Delegate award is awarded to the delegate who best balances the quality of content (with reference to the Judging Criteria), topical variety, creativity of coverage and maintaining a consistent, prolific output. This award is to a *single delegate* for their *body of work*. This is a high bar, but only because we believe there are Press delegates who can meet this bar and aspire to the best traditions of journalism.

Best Press Piece

Put simply, this award is awarded to the delegate for a single article that no one else could do. We are not pulling your leg. The beauty of journalism with multiple competing



organisations lies in journalists revealing insights that fundamentally reshape how issues are viewed, while their competitors and peers are none the wiser.

Put simply, the Best Press Piece is judged by its journalistic value: how much it alters the public narrative from all other coverage on the same topic, engendering change in both thought and action of all implicated: readers, subjects and yourself. We therefore expect no less than a *scoop* for the Best Press Piece. The news point and angle must be completely fresh, highly original and has the potential to vastly disrupt the narrative before it. All other elements of the Judging Criteria apply too, and the Best Press Piece is expected to excel in most, if not all elements.

Top 5 Press Piece

This residual category is for work that is conspicuously well-researched, written and consistent with the editorial slant of your news organisation. Even if the news point is not a scoop, the angle chosen should be highly-original, provoking readers to depart from conventional frames of analysis that may be used by other press delegates on the same issue.

For instance, in writing about committee debates on censorship, a good piece that expands the discourse of censorship to include the identification of fake news on social media websites, where other reports merely focused on state-initiated censorship mechanisms would be looked favourably upon for the purposes of this award. Needless to say, exemplary performance with reference to the Judging Criteria is also expected.





Best Press Agency

This is a group award for the press agency that *collectively* produces a diverse body of work with consistent quality prolifically. Such an agency has no deadweight, but a set of motivated members with a congenial working relationship that allows every member to flourish and achieve than they could have alone.

Judging Criteria

Here are some of the qualities we want to see in our best journalists at NTUMUN 2019 and we look forward to Press Corps delegates who go above and beyond these requirements.

1. **Rigour:** Although it is impossible for articles to be an unabridged account of what happened in committee, Press Corps delegates should try to capture the essence of the debate as much as possible. To write more tightly, angle and scope your story. This will help you distill the major developments from the rhetoric, so that you can delve deeper into the key issues the committee faces. One easy check you can run is: how does your article serve to inform, and therefore empower? Journalism is not about knowledge for its own sake, we think. It has to empower both readers and subjects to reconsider status quo and enact change as they will according to their conscience.



2. **Creativity:** Although the standard news article tends to be a factual report, at NTUMUN 2019, we welcome features, profiles, opinion pieces, and even multimedia stories. Different formats of production that engage multiple senses helps enhance reader immersion. Feel free to pitch your ideas to us (at the start of committee session) if you would like to push the envelope. Creativity also takes the form of being a good observer and not shying away from asking the hard, counter-intuitive (but salient) questions and pursuing unexplored angles.
 3. **Attention to Detail:** Articles should be rich in colour and free from jarring spelling or grammatical errors. We also expect Press Corps delegates to meet deadlines and address all queries that the Press Editors have for their articles.
 4. **Accuracy:** Without a certain degree of sensationalism or intrigue, Press Corps will not have such a fond place in our hearts. Yet it must be established that we have a low threshold for fake news, unless Press Corps delegates can convince the Press Editors that the reports are intended to liven up debate in an otherwise stagnant committee, or to challenge delegates to clarify their stances. Always respect the political slant of your network, bearing in mind their regional focus and the degree of independence they enjoy, from state or corporate control.
 5. **Initiative:** We want delegates who take the initiative to conduct Press conferences and test the frontiers of journalistic production. When in doubt, do not hesitate to consult the Press Editors, be it about substantive or stylistic issues.
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Conclusion

Under no circumstances will we accept intellectual dishonesty or plagiarism. Please refrain from stealing scoops, interviewing delegates outside of committee, or going undercover and we seek your cooperation in respecting the right to privacy of delegates and your fellow journalists. Always introduce the press network you are representing and ask your questions succinctly and politely. Press Corps delegates who do not abide by these guidelines will suffer severe consequences and additionally, will not be considered for the Best Journalist award.

Having said that, we hope that NTUMUN 2019 will be a blast for everyone, and we look forward to meeting all of you soon!

