

Director's Address

Dear Delegates,

My name is Ishika Saxena. It is an honour for me to be welcoming you to the Press Corps of CJCMUN 2016. The Press will focus on covering all other committees at the conference. I wish to watch delegates incorporate their agencies political leanings and personal opinions in an effective manner, all under the guise of neutrality.

I was born in Bangalore, but shifted to Mumbai before I was a year old. I lived most of my life in Dubai, before moving back to Bangalore in 9th grade. I studied humanities during junior college at Christ. Having lived in a country that cut out anatomical sections in our biology books, the freedom in India struck me. However, it was accompanied by a completely new set of problems. My interest in international affairs stems from this. It is a quest to find out what an effective political arrangement would entail. I served on the EB of CJCMUN last year as well being the editor of the CJCMUN newsletter. I also edited a biannual newsletter and an anthology of book reviews – both published by Christ Junior College. I am currently studying liberal arts at Symbiosis. I am doing creative writing, two courses in philosophy, computers, law, and environment studies this semester. I also enjoy science, literature and philosophical debate and aspire to be a polymath.

The Press Corps is a dynamic special application committee. Delegates are expected to appear objective in their reporting. Each country has different methods and mechanisms of controlling their media and these must be thoroughly known to delegates and kept in mind while drafting articles.

The Press Corps is extremely unique and enables delegates to be a part of the conference in a way no other delegate can be. A delegate of the Press is a delegate of every other committee and must be equipped with shrewd observation and critical evaluation of proceedings around them.

History is being written, you are the author. Is the pen mightier than the sword?

All the best! I look forward to meeting all of you.

Sincerely,

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Introduction

The Press Corps at CJC MUN 2016 is a vivacious simulation of the International Press wherein groups of journalists or correspondents are stationed at various committees shedding light about international affairs to the common folk.

The existence of the International Press acts as a balancing force between leaders and followers, governors and the governed along with international figures and the global population. It also brings to attention activities and portions of society that are inaccessible to the average citizen. In simple terms the press always has been and will remain to be the vox populi (voice of the people).

The press is a transformative element in modern society, shaping perspectives and stances with every word. Reporters therefore stand at a critical juncture in society, as their stories help promote and alter the course of social progress. On an international level, the press is further responsible for keeping multi-national organisations accountable by facilitating the cooperation of international law. It also outlines international dialogue in a substantial manner as world leaders themselves are influenced by news media.

As on the global platform, the Press Corps plays an indispensable at CJC MUN. It acts as a link between the various committees, communicating an objective approach. Delegates must report accurately and promptly on the proceedings of different committees. Delegates must put forth an analytical and detailed perspective of the assorted

occurrences in committees. As delegates are simulating the role of a reporter from their respective news agencies, they must remain in character throughout the conference and always adhere to their individual editorial policies. Delegates are required to conduct themselves as a true reporter at a real meeting of a UN body.

Delegates should note that during the duration of the conference, there will be a crisis simulation exclusively for the Press Corps. Details will be elaborated upon during the first session of committee.

CJC MUN will also have a blog for reporters to showcase their more creative side. Delegates are encouraged to reflect more holistically on the experiences of the Model UN conference, anecdotes describing experiences etc. The EB would like to emphasise that this not the platform to write gratuitous matter about delegate mishaps or portray any form of disrespect towards other delegates.

Forms of Media

News organizations around the world are transitioning from traditional, print based media to more digital media, ranging from websites (e- newspapers) to telecasts to smart-phone applications. Keeping pace with the contemporary dynamics of society, the Press Corps has a wide range of media through which delegates can broadcast information.

Written

A written piece can take many forms: an interview, a traditional short news story, a procedural article, a long form exposition of a controversial topic, or even an opinion piece on an ongoing issue. Delegates will

be made aware of the prerequisites for the aforementioned forms. A quality piece should feature quotes and interviews and relevant facts about the situation, while avoiding inaccuracies and excessive use of assumption and inference. Delegates should also take caution while interpreting any situation and context as well as ensuring basic facts are accurate. They are encouraged to bring a personal laptop to write and submit articles for editing. Any form of written content is **mandatory** throughout the course of the conference. Delegates are urged to submit quality pieces than that of larger quantity. There are no length requirements for written pieces; reporters should simply strive to convey as much useful information as possible given the time constraints they will be facing.

Photography

Reporters can also be photojournalists and take photographs of committee sessions throughout the conference. Photographs should be of a professional nature. The majority of photos should be candid shots of delegates doing something interesting in the committee room such as engaging in formal and informal debate, raising placards, writing working papers, etc. Generally, the subjects of the photograph shouldn't be looking directly at the camera; otherwise the picture may look staged.

Videos

Reporters have the option to record news broadcasts. They can also use video cameras to record B-roll (background footage) to include in broadcasts, again making sure not to disrupt committee sessions. Reporters using video will be expected to write out a script for their broadcast so that the news report is delivered fluidly and professionally. There

is a lot of room for creativity in producing videos, and reporters should feel free to explore diverse content options in their broadcasts.

Social Media

The Press Corps will have a Twitter account that will be used to keep conference attendees informed of news updates in the different committees. Reporters should always be on the lookout for interesting items to tweet about. For instance, if a delegate says something particularly controversial or profound in a speech, that might be tweet-worthy.

Other

Delegates may also use visual graphics alongside their written articles. Examples of this kind of content would be political cartoons, sketches of committee proceedings, data visualizations (e.g. graphs and displays of poll data) etc.

Delegates are required to take note that they are not to disturb committee proceedings while using non-print media as well as the fact that they are responsible for their own electronic belongings.

Content Types

There are 2 types of reporting that can be done – opinion pieces and news reports. Delegates must be aware of the differences between the two and keep this in mind while presenting their articles. It must be stated which kind of piece is being presented and it is recommended that delegates maintain a balance in presenting both.

News Reports

These articles must focus primarily on reporting the events and occurrences in other committees as they happen. It must lay emphasis on the main facts, quotes from speakers, necessary contextual information, etc. The greatest challenge in this task would be editing content and presenting it in a concise form. The article must be easily readable and must be accurate. Sensationalistic journalism is not recommended in news reports.

Opinion Pieces

The delegates will be allowed to respond to the arguments going on in other committees through these articles. A general background of debate that the delegate's stance is based on must be clearly provided. The arguments must be clearly introduced with appropriate context and quotes. They must further be substantiated through evidence and coherence in the use of language.

For example, "The DISEC passed a vague resolution" would not be well suited as it does not explain why it is seen as vague or methods for improvement. "The resolution passed by the DISEC breaches the sovereignty of another nation," however explains the exact reason as to why the resolution is not seen as the best one and could go on to explain how it could be improved. The rest of the article should emphasize why it is believed that sovereignty is being breached. Alternative suggestions are not mandatory. Well-structured criticism substantiated through coherent expression will suffice.

In several cases, you may wish to interview delegates before the completion of these articles. If this happens, please refer to the interview process stated later in this guide.

Beats

A beat is simply, an in-depth reporting on any one issue, organization, institution, etc over time. Beats in the Press Corps will refer to in-depth coverage of any one committee. Beats will be assigned to avoid concentrated and disproportionate coverage of any one committee. Beats will be assigned based on preferences of the delegates. Each delegate has to cover a minimum of 4 out of the total 6 other committees. If, however a committee is not being covered during the course of a day, it will be randomly assigned.

Despite this random allocation, the point of Beats is to ensure that delegates are free and able to cover committees and agendas they deem interesting. Delegates must read the list of committees and their respective agendas. It is recommended that delegates also read the study guides of the other committees they wish to cover.

Press Conferences & Interviews

Several delegates may wish to conduct Press Conferences. This can be done ONLY based on statements made by delegates during committee. Questions based on unrelated foreign policy will not be entertained. Delegates must prepare a list of questions they would like to ask and it must be submitted to the Executive Board of the Press Corps as well as the

Executive Board of the committee of which the delegate they wish to question is a part. The Press Conference itself will be conducted by the Head of Press. The delegate that submitted the questions will attend and take notes of the responses.

Questions based on statements made in committee that do not directly relate to committee proceedings and flow of debate in the committee must be asked during interviews. Interviews must have a general outline; however, delegates are free to make them slightly open-ended. Prior to conducting the interview, a rough questionnaire must be presented to the Executive Board of the Press Corps. The interview must be conducted in the presence of any Executive Board member of the Press Corps. The EB members will reserve the right to deem questions inappropriate or to stop the interview at any point.

Agencies Represented at CJC MUN 2016

News Agency	Country
China Daily	China
Reuters	USA
La Repubblica	Italy
Al Jazeera	Qatar
Le Monde	France
El Mundo	Spain
The Globe and Mail	Canada
Kompas	Indonesia
The Hindu	India

Clarín	Argentina
Bild	Germany
The Guardian	UK
The Sydney Morning Herald	Australia
The Asahi Shimbun	Japan
Dawn	Pakistan
Zaman	Turkey
The Jerusalem Post	Israel
Chosun Ilbo	Korea
20 Minuten	Switzerland
Mladá fronta Dnes	Czech Republic
O Estado de São Paulo	Brazil
Komsomolskaya Pravda	Russia
Saudi Press Agency	Saudi Arabia
Bernama News Agency	Malaysia
Guang Zhou Ribao	Singapore
Diário de Notícias	Portugal
La Jornada	Nicaragua
Amaq News Agency	Islamic State

Sample Articles:

1. Modi -Proactive enough?

Since our newly elected Prime Minister Narendra Modi has come to power, there have been significant changes seen by the nation. These changes made by him were

termed by the people as 'Modi's 100 days'. In the span of that many days and more Mr. Modi has achieved some things that the previous government may have blatantly failed to.

The ministry has been completely revamped, from the 9-5 policy to smaller cabinets in order to increase the quality and speedy implementation of policies, favouring the multiple sectors of our frenzied economy. A 'Ganga cleaning' program was introduced, with a 200 crore mark giving importance to our country's biggest river resource. In the financial sector PM Modi has introduced the 'compulsory bank account' policy that has in succession benefitted the rural and urban folk, especially farmers, the backbone of our nation. His New Foreign Policy is now the talk of the day, Modi being among the first ones to initiate bilateral relations with several 'invisible' allies of India, a sphere where the UPA had a more lukewarm approach. According to Modi unless we unite, we will never see the phases of development, transparent governance and improvement in rural and urban sanitation among others. 'Ache Din Ayenge' a quote popularly endorsed by the Prime Minister, the influence of which can surely be seen in the incredible investment tie-up that Japan has entered with India. This can be further

seen in the renewed political ties with the United States; the proposed 'Swach Bharath Campaign' supported by President Barack Obama.

Taking a leaf out of the previous governments, Modi has deemed it necessary that India's neighbours are given importance. He is the first Indian Prime Minister to visit Nepal in 17 years, deciding to give out a huge investment in Nepal, just to make up for the loss of previous relations and to inaugurate a newer bond forming. He also attempted to re-establish bilateral relationships with Pakistan by inviting the President to his Swearing-in-Ceremony.

With the others ready to come together for mutual benefits, China has been indecisive in their response to Modi's invitation to India. The President had agreed to meet Modi in India. However, due to border issues taking place during the visit, the conference came to nothing.

The BJP government is expected to take time in order to facilitate the changes India requires. However, the commitments made must be followed through, unlike the previous government. Though the UPA and the Congress must remain less aggressive in their tactics, they certainly

shouldn't stop providing constructive criticism in relation to BJP's policies.

The UPA Government's power had its positive side to it; reaching incredible heights by reforming the farmer life, supporting the green revolution and reaching out to the rural population. But now there exists a newer party with a Prime Minister who possesses knowledge to garner the masses. When given the opportunity, Modi can facilitate India's second economic boom, making it a possible superpower.

2. USA's unpreparedness for the Ebola outbreak: Key to a Global Epidemic?

Deductions according to the review conducted by Associated Press on the 30th of October 2014 found that the existence of poor health care apparatus such as inefficient training, staffing, E.R-shortcomings and limited funding was prominent even in the United States. Thus, in retrospect, the revelation of the very first case of Ebola being diagnosed in Texas on the 28th of September 2014 seems natural.

25th September was the first time Thomas Eric Duncan arrived at the Texas Health Presbyterian Hospital, Dallas declaring symptoms of abdominal pain, dizziness, nausea, headache and fever. When enquired about his travel history, Duncan mentioned his arrival from Africa and neglected to give any viable information regarding close contact with Ebola patients. This major detail was not verbally conveyed to the physician at the time and thus went unnoticed. 4 days later, an electronic document of his unfortunate predicament was uncovered and Duncan was ultimately sent in for Ebola testing, diagnosed as positive only on the 30th of September.

Added to this negligence by hospital personnel, there existed a lack of protective apparatus for the staff; the National Nurses' Union alleging lax procedures for Ebola protocol at Texas Hospital on 14 October. According to sources, nurses treated the patient without proper protective gear and inconsistent protocol measures. Nurses were forced to employ make-shift medical tape in order to secure tears in their garments and mask all portions of their bodies while treating the patient. Some other allegations included patients with a probable chance of having been exposed to Duncan while he was kept in isolation for just a day before being

shifted back with other patients. Without a universal guideline, nurses were to pick whichever procedure they wanted to follow. The system was further weakened with Duncan kept in a non-isolated portion for a while, allowing exposure to other patients. It can be speculated that this laxity coupled, later on, with indifference towards the severity of the situation resulted in the following cases of Ebola attacks to arise.

On the 11th of October, Nina Pham, a nurse who treated Duncan was tested positive for Ebola which gave rise to the controversy of 'system-failure-of-Ebola-protocol'. However Pham was declared free of Ebola and released from National Institutes of Health Clinical Centre on the 24th of October. Two other cases were reported on 15th of October and 23rd of October regarding a second nurse involved in the treatment of Duncan and a physician who flew to New York from Guinea respectively.

Later measures to establish specific procedures of Ebola protocol were made by the Centre of Disease Control and Prevention and State Public Health Directors. According to the Ebola quarantine order issued by California on the 29th of October, any person arriving from any Ebola affected region and has

had personal contact with any person infected with the virus in California is to be quarantined for 21 days.

Despite such measures President of the United States presumes that this isn't the end. Releasing a Press Statement, Obama publicly claimed on the 29th of October that the United States may have more cases of Ebola over the coming weeks or months depending on the time it would take for the epidemic in Africa to be controlled. Or rather, until the United States would see a transformation in the attitude of its health care personnel along with a renovation in the quality of protective and treatment apparatus.

Position Papers

Delegates are required to submit a position paper of approximately 3/4 paragraphs with a brief description of their media outlet, and a notable story or issue they have covered in the last 5-10 years and their political inclination. They are expected to demonstrate an understanding of who the newspaper is generally writing for, and what agendas and biases they may have. A concise history of your agency as well as controversies your agency has faced previously should be included.

The position papers are to be submitted by October 15. Delegates not adhering to this deadline will not be taken into consideration for awards.

Evaluation Criteria

Delegates will be judged on the basis of the following questions:

- Did the reporter produce a diverse portfolio of content over the course of the conference?
- Did the reporter produce interesting news pieces that were informative, well-written, and included appropriate content and quotations?
- Were the facts included in a reporter's piece accurate and presented in an effective manner?
- Did the reporter adhere to deadlines set by the EB?
- Did the reporter adhere to the style guide in producing their pieces?
- Was the delegate ethical and professional?
- Was the reporter responsive to the advice and directions of the EB?
- How creative was the delegate in writing supplement pieces?
- How did the delegate manage the crisis simulation?

The above will be amongst the conventional criteria such as standard of writing, eloquence, inter-personal skills, conduct, quick-wit etc.

Closing Remarks

The CJC Press Corps awards all reporters the opportunity to channel their creativity through various media, and it enables delegates to experience the conference in a way that no other delegate can.

This brief study guide should have provided you with a good idea of the

forms and quality of content you will be expected to produce during the conference and it should also have given you a general sense of how the committee will be run.

We look forward to meeting you on the 24th of October. We assure you a memorable experience and wish you the best of luck!

If you have any questions or concerns about anything related to Press Corps, please feel free to contact us:

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