



MODEL UNITED NATIONS
OF THE FAR WEST

@ THE BIRTHPLACE OF THE UN

GUIDE TO THE WORLD PRESS

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LETTER FROM THE EDITOR

The World Press was founded during the 40th Session of Model United Nations of the Far West in 1990, an evolution of the MUNFW Daily Journal (founded at the Sixth Annual Session in 1956) which provided delegates with logistical information regarding the conference site, including directions to different areas of the college campus hosting the session, updates on conference events and meeting locations, and more. The World Press was created with a new mission in mind — to bring news about the conference to delegates in their committees and to fully incorporate the newspaper into the simulation by selecting “foreign correspondents” from various country teams to cover conference events. Ever since, delegates have eagerly awaited the daily deliveries of World Press issues to their committee rooms to read about the excitement occurring in other committees.

World Press reporters have also covered important issues of interest to students delegates outside of committee negotiations, including the ways that real world events have affected them and changed their policy positions, sometimes in the middle of the session.

The World Press, like all institutions, has evolved over time. The World Press’s new, entirely digital format is just one example of that evolution. We are excited to have you on our news team for the upcoming session of Model United Nations of the Far West.

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GUIDE TO THE WORLD PRESS

Model UN mirrors the United Nations in a number of ways, including press coverage. Being a World Press correspondent at Model UN, like at the United Nations, is fast paced. During the fall of each year, when the General Assembly session commences, a press correspondent's assignment becomes demanding as multiple meetings, many of which are worthy of reporting, take place at the same time. While one cannot be in more than one place at a time, there are other ways to get information about meetings. The back-room politics of the United Nations is reflected at Model UN in the hallway conversations and late-night caucusing sessions. It is the adept observer who can discern these diplomatic subtleties and begin to better understand the game of politics and diplomacy, and from there to write about it.

THE WORLD PRESS ORGANIZATION

The World Press consists of correspondents from national news services assigned to cover MUNFW. World Press delegates write and submit articles to the newspaper, which is published once or twice daily. This newspaper disseminates news and opinion, serving as a link between committees and delegates, facilitating the overall integration and cohesiveness of conference proceedings, both in and out of committee. The World Press' production staff is headed by the Editor-in-Chief, who, with the assistance of editors and reporters, strive to provide accurate coverage of conference events.

OPERATION OF THE WORLD PRESS

The World Press blog posts articles throughout each day of conference. News reports, analysis, features, editorials, and resolution summaries normally make up each edition. Press delegates are issued credentials, which grant them admission to any committee room for the purpose of observing the proceedings, and are expected to write at least one article per day. At the conference, press delegates are often assigned to report on specific subjects. These assignments are normally made at morning or evening press meetings.

JOURNALISM PRINCIPLES

The intention of the World Press is to produce a credible and accurate news summary, with the ideals of a free press and the basic ethics of journalism always in mind. To this end, journalists must remain close to their sources. The most effective tool in any kind of journalism is the direct source: the delegate's words as opposed to the rumor. In addition, journalists must also know their material. If a reporter is covering a session of the Security Council, they must be aware of the rules, topics at hand, politics at work, and the positions of various countries. The following rules attempt to establish a professional relationship between the press, the delegates, and the Secretariat.

1. It is the correspondent's responsibility to meet deadlines set up by the Editor-in-Chief, unless they have approval from the Editor in Chief for alternate deadlines.
2. Correspondents shall conduct interviews at times agreed upon by the delegate and when committee is suspended. Committee business or debate should not be interrupted.

3. Correspondents shall remain unbiased while on duty for the World Press, and should only express their views or opinions through appropriate articles.
4. Notes, drafts, and copies of correspondent's articles should only be shared with other World Press staff. No delegate or member or the Secretariat may influence coverage in any manner, other than through the course of an interview or personally written statement to the press. If anyone feels it necessary to influence or approve your work, they should bring the matter to the Editor-in-Chief only.
5. When asking questions of delegates or the Secretariat, the correspondent must identify themselves as such, and for which national news service they are reporting, and ask through what means, if any, the source consents to be identified.

PREPARATION

It is not necessary for World Press correspondents to have prior journalism experience to participate in the World Press; however, prior journalism or writing experience is helpful. It is the delegate's responsibility to prepare themselves by researching their country and news service, the conference committees, and issues that they will be covering at conference, similar to the research a delegate preparing for a Main Committee would conduct.

In order for a reporter to correctly reflect their nation's point of view (or bias), they must understand both the internal and external conditions and policies of their country. Moreover, although World Press delegates will not actually participate in committees, they will be covering their proceedings; thus, the more internal politics and knowledge they have, the more insightful and effective their reporting will be. Having a working knowledge of the rules, common tactics used in committee, and the issues being discussed will help. An effective method of preparation is to research the news service for which you will be reporting, to obtain background information about how, where, why, by whom and for whom they are published. Delegates should also study general techniques involved in reporting and composing for newspaper articles.

REPORTING - SOURCE COLLECTION

Observation is one of the central tenants of reporting. When covering MUNFW, it is important to astutely observe the committee or delegation that is the subject of your article. Take notes on what you're observing, especially direct quotes from the proceedings, noteworthy events, or speeches. Collect copies of any relevant documents, such as agendas or resolutions. You do not need to record everything that takes place, but you will need to have reference materials. Gathering information should go beyond passive observation, so make sure to conduct interviews to supplement the information in your article. Conduct interviews at a convenient time for the interviewee, and identify yourself as a reporter, as well as what paper and country you represent, and the purpose of the interview. When you record specific quotes, always transcribe them immediately—ask the source to repeat themselves or explain themselves further if necessary. Make sure to ask the source if they may be quoted by name, country or anonymously. At least two sources are necessary for any article. If you gain inside information, such as rumor or information given in confidence outside of an interview, it is not usable in an article. However, you may ask such a source questions about such rumors. Any questions as to admissible information should be directed to the Editor in Chief.

GROUND RULES

While it is the intent of MUNFW to observe the freedom of the press, in cooperation with each Secretariat, the MUNFW reserves the right to not publish any article submitted by a correspondent that is deemed inappropriate, libelous, or which appears to be plagiarized in any manner. Correspondents will be issued credentials which will admit them into any committee room for the purpose of observation of the proceedings. However, when in committee, correspondents may not speak to individual delegates or to the committee itself. If a correspondent wishes to speak to a delegate, they may do so only during a suspension of the meeting.

TYPES OF WORLD PRESS ARTICLES

There are four main types of articles: beat coverage, delegation coverage, analysis, and features.

Beat coverage consists of attending committee, interviewing delegates or chairs, and examining resolutions. The purpose of a beat article is to inform the reader as to what happened in a committee, what the main issues of discussion and who the main players are. Bias is appropriate only to the extent that it is in line with your country's newspaper practice. Your primary concern is to report the news so that others have a true picture of what went on.

Delegation coverage means observing a delegation and conducting interviews with its delegates. Articles should put the delegation's purposes and actions into perspective relative to current events, conference happenings, and the history the delegation itself.

Analysis means educated and qualified opinion and commentary on issues, committee proceedings, and the conference as a whole. These are not editorials; they are analyses based on observation, fact, and documents. Your perspective may be that of your country, but it must be supported by fact, and sources are still required. These articles will give a voice to the different opinions of those participating in the conference.

Features provide coverage of lively, perhaps nonpolitical, aspects of the conference such as secretariat information, committee profiles, and social events. Features may be creative, as they serve to add creativity and human interest to the paper, but still require sources and verified information.

In summary, you are a reporter with a dual purpose; to report the news for your country's audience and to allow all countries represented at MUNFW to gather information about the proceedings of the conference regardless of their national perspective.

STORY CONSTRUCTION

Once you have finished your observation and gathered all necessary information, you are ready to construct your article. The most important thing to remember is that others must be able to easily follow what you have to say. For example, can someone who did not attend the Security Council that day read your article understand what happened and who was there?

Articles should present their information in a straightforward and concise fashion. Only important and relevant details should be included. Group related facts with corresponding quotes and other information. Decide how you will order your article as appropriate to its form

and content (as a general rule, chronological order is appropriate for news articles). Write the story: All articles will consist of three parts: the lead, the body and the wrap-up, in that order. The lead is the opening paragraph of the story, consisting of one or two sentences that identify the who, what, where, and when of a story. The lead identifies the subject of the analysis to come, sets the article's tone, and peaks the reader's interest. The body will be the bulk of your article. For news stories, it will present the facts and comments of the subject. As mentioned above, articles are usually structured chronologically, but if the piece combines multiple stages of debate or agenda topic, chronology may be set aside so that each topic may be dealt with separately. Wrap-up serves the purpose of letting the reader know the article is closing. It should be one paragraph that restates the lead in light of the information presented in the article. It helps to study daily national newspapers to see examples of articles and compare your writing.

Once your story is complete, you need to edit it. Would someone outside the issue understand? Is information logically organized? Is the piece accurate? Are your quotes and sources properly cited? Is it appropriately balanced and biased? Did you check spelling and grammar? Remember that your name is on the article. The World Press is a unique opportunity to participate at conference and is also a learning experience. Keep in mind that you are writing for someone else's information, and that if they can gain information and understanding events outside their committee rooms, the purpose of the World Press is served and your job as a reporter has been accomplished.

For more information, or to contact the Editor of the World Press for this year's session of MUNFW, contact wpeditor@munfw.org