

**Forum:** International Press Corps

**Issue #07-01:** Reporting on PANAMUN

**Student Officer:** Quetzalli Carrera-López

**Position:** Chair of International Press Corps

---

### Summary of the Press Worldwide:

The role the press plays worldwide is huge. The main role of the press is to deliver information to the public. It has the responsibility of informing the public of what the government does and the decisions it makes. Due to the constant eyes on the government at the hands of the press, it is under a lot of pressure; always keeping in mind how the press will react. However, this pressure is beneficial to the public, it allows for governments to act in the interest of the people because they know they are watching and keeping track of their actions. Additionally, the press has the duty to initiate and promote conversations around political advancements or issues. This way, the public is aware of the issues at hand and is vocal about their opinions towards them. The press stimulates debate around different events and is, therefore, vital to the advancements in a society's democratic development. Due to the fact that the press allows for the public to be active participants in discussions and debates about political issues, it represents the will of the people, proving to be an essential part of democracy.

### How IPC Would Work:

Prior to the conference, you will be assigned a news agency that you will research extensively. You will adopt the style and bias from your news agency and will be expected to write articles accordingly. During the conference you

work individually, observing the committees to which you're assigned and taking notes on what is being debated. As the conference progresses, you are expected to take notes and conduct interviews in order to gain more information on the debate. However, remember not to interrupt the flow of the debate when doing so. Be sure to stay respectful during interviews and remember your news' bias. After your research, investigation, and observation of the committees you're assigned to, you will be expected to write an article informing the conference of the events taking place.

## **What To Expect In The Conference:**

### **Your News Agency**

Prior to the commencement of the conference, you will be expected to investigate your news agency in order to successfully write from its point of view. You are expected to submit an overview of your news agency's bias, policy, and general functionality that is approximately 450-600 words. While writing this overview, include your news outlet's general topic focus, its bias or political stance (if it's generally neutral, mention that), and a brief description of its history.

### **Articles**

You are expected to write daily articles of 350-550 words in length from your news agency's bias and viewpoint on the events that have occurred in your committee (these articles can be based on interviews, observations, etc.). The formatting of your article should be as shown:

- You should start with a clear thesis statement and clearly state the context of your article.
- Include counter-arguments or different opinions on the matter.
- A coherent flow of ideas with the use of transitions and buttons.
- Create a catchy title that draws the reader in.

- If your article is based on an interview, be sure to quote what was said word for word and respect your interviewee's decision to stay anonymous if they choose to.
- Write your article in paragraph form (you should have both an introduction and conclusion).

## Reporting

Your reports/articles will be judged on different scales. Such criteria are as follows:

- Creativity- As IPC journalists, we expect no plagiarism from the articles you submit. Your work should be original and creative; unique to your specific news agency. If you are using any information from external sites (for historical context, for example), be sure to cite your sources.
- Relevancy- The articles you submit need to be factually accurate and relevant to the issue. Be sure to remain accurate and relevant to what was debated in your committee, especially if your article is based on an interview.
- Style- The transitions, word choice, and structure of your articles are of the utmost importance. Be sure to express the events of what happened in your committee well, while staying true to your news agency.
- Coherency- The events you are discussing in your article should be stated clearly and coherently. The format and structure of your article should be easy to follow and understand.
- Grammar- Your article should, of course, be grammatically correct as it is representing the press of the conference. Be sure to double and triple-check your article before submitting.
- Professionalism- Once again, as these articles are representing the press of the conference, it is important that you remain professional with how you

phrase what is being discussed. Remember not to use anything inappropriate or informal as it makes your article lose its credibility.

- Efficiency- Your efficiency with the deadlines you are given will be taken into account. Your articles will be due in a specific amount of time, which should not take away from the quality of your work. Anything submitted late will not be accepted.
- Allure- The content of your articles should be interesting and alluring to the audience. Make sure to use language that is intriguing and drives people to read your articles (e.g. humor).

## **Interviews**

Journalists are expected to interview fellow delegates in order to complete their reports. These interviews will take place outside conference rooms, either before the commencement of debates or after the end of a debate, so that the flow of debate is not disturbed. Journalists should initiate interviews with delegates; however, there are times when a delegate may invite a journalist to perform an interview with them. Journalists are required to pay attention to whoever is speaking at all times while collecting important information to be able to formulate questions for the delegates. When producing your report it is important to respect the source's choice to either remain anonymous or not. Always ensure if you are allowed to use the information of something you have heard indirectly or even directly through interviews conducted. Interviews are an amazing outlet to gain information, so be sure to formulate questions according to your committees' topics prior to the conference.

## **The News Outlets:**

### **CNN**

CNN, or Cables News Network, is an independent news outlet known for its live coverage of breaking news. It was originally founded in 1980 as a 24-hour cable

news channel that has had a significant impact and presence in the media. It is known for having a more left-wing leaning bias in its news reporting and political affiliation. Its headquarters are located in Atlanta, but CNN has a worldwide audience. CNN can be found in the [media bias chart](#), rated as having a “left” bias.

### **Russia Today**

Russia Today is a government-funded international media network that was originally founded in 2005 and operates cable and satellite television channels. Its news reporting is offered outside the Russian population and reaches different demographics because of its varying content in distinct languages. Russia Today is a heavily unreliable source due to its extreme bias, continuous use of Russian propaganda, and spread of misinformation. It is even panned as *fake news*. Regardless, it tends to have a right-center bias in its coverage.

### **Al Jazeera**

Al Jazeera is an independent news network that is partially funded by the Qatari government. First created in 1996 by the Royal Qatar family, it has now become one of the most popular Arabic television channels. Based on its story selection, Al Jazeera has a left-center bias that covers international news. Al Jazeera is generally reliable but can be occasionally misleading and has had failed fact checks.

### **China Daily**

China Daily is a government-funded news publisher from Beijing, China with global coverage but a focus on China. According to its story selection, China Daily has a more left wing bias. However, it is adjudged a very questionable source because it exhibits extreme bias, state propaganda, and poor sourcing

of credible information. Due to the support and funding of the Chinese Communist Government, the source becomes very untrustworthy.

### **Times of India**

Times of India is an independent Indian daily newspaper first launched in 1838. It focuses on politics, news, business, technology, and entertainment. It tends to favor a right-center bias that aligns with the Indian ruling party (right-leaning). However, its credibility is questionable. Due to the government's extensive media censorship and lack of freedom in the press, the Times of India tends to be unreliable.

### **Fox News**

Fox News, an American multinational news network, is an independent news outlet generally centered around politics. This conservative news television channel is known for its link to the American Republican Party and has been described as practicing biased reporting with the intent of portraying the Democratic Party in a negative light. Fox News is strongly right-biased and is somewhat questionable in terms of reliability due to its spread of conspiracy theories, the publishing of misleading proceedings, and poor sourcing. Fox News can also be found in the [media bias chart](#), marked as having a "right" bias.

### **Reuters**

Reuters is an international multimedia news agency that is based in London, United Kingdom. Reuters is appraised as a very respectable source due to its objectivity, unbiased stance, and proper sourcing of information. It is an independent news outlet that has high-factual reporting and one that "covers both sides of the story", rated by the [media bias chart](#) as having a "center" bias. Reuters is one of the most credible media sources, with 2 Pulitzer Prizes for its international news coverage to support that claim.

## **Reforma**

Reforma is a Mexican newspaper, widely known as the first Newsgroup in Mexico. It was originally founded in 1922 but has quickly become one of the most informative and credible institutions in the country. This independent newspaper allows its journalists to have more liberty in their reporting since it separates its commercial division from its journalism division. This outlet is deemed to have a more right-leaning bias, holding a particular liking for the National Action Party.

## **El País**

Based in Madrid, Spain, El País is a Spanish daily newspaper originally launched in 1976 by Jesus de Polanco, José Ortega Spottorno, and Carlos Mendo. It is a multimedia news agency that covers Spanish culture but also international news, sports, entertainment, technology, and more. It tends to favor a left-center bias based on its news coverage and selection. Additionally, it has a high-factual reporting because of its proper sourcing and reliability.