



# INTERNATIONAL PRESS

## Background Guide

*I can shake off everything as I write;  
my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn.*



**BIRLA MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

# Letter from the Editors

I can shake off everything as I write; my sorrows disappear, my courage is reborn. Warm greetings members of the International Press! We are very pleased to welcome you all to the sixth edition of our Birla Model United Nations.

**Exprimez Vous**, a newsletter released on the second day of our two-day conference, has been an integral part of all editions. **Journalism**, as an authentic critique is a vital link between the leaders and the public. The **Exprimez Vous** aims to seek and inculcate the main principles of journalism, namely; Accuracy, Balance, and Credibility and translate complex ideas into understandable pieces. While writing articles, clicking photographs, and giving life to cartoons that will constitute this newsletter, it will be your prime responsibility to uphold the core principles of the **Exprimez Vous**.

This is a mammoth task, so the Executive Board and the Secretariat decided to introduce an IP Handbook to gear you up and get you started on writing various types of articles. It acts as an introduction for first-time reporters and as a review for experienced ones. There are also sections catering to the cartoon and photography department and we encourage you can read the same before the conference commences. While the guide gives you a starting point and covers some parts of your research, please remember that it is not exhaustive. This guide should only be used to help you develop your notes and research. Content, style, and pattern are equal and interdependent parts of a good article. Don't let the boundaries of formats and other technicalities hinder your creativity and zest. As necessary as ingenuity is, to get a grasp of the agenda is furthermore indispensable. Therefore, it is recommended that you read the background guides provided for your allotted committee thoroughly before the conference commences. Over to you, members! Have the courage and ideas to venture beyond the ordinary, and resist being influenced. Feel free to contact us at any point in time if you find yourselves at a crossroads!

May the force be with you!

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# Elements of Style

Following are the guidelines you are to follow while writing your articles:

1. **Font:** Use The font style Times New Roman and font size 12 for your articles.
2. **Title:** every article must have an appropriate title. It provides a hint about your piece.
3. **Accuracy:** It is highly important for your articles to have accurate facts, quotes and statistics.
4. **Originality:** Though you require research and are allowed to take inspiration from sources, only original pieces will be accepted. Plagiarism would lead to disqualification.
5. **Third Person:** You are not supposed to use 'I', 'MY', and such terms, you are to write in the third person.
6. **Abbreviations:** Only standard acronyms and approved abbreviations are to be used. For example, NATO ( North Atlantic Treaty Organisation) and WHO ( World Health Organisation).
7. **Currency:** Indian rupees are to be written as INR, dollar values are displayed with a proper currency symbol. Values greater than one million are summarized.

# Elements of Style

8. **Bold Text:** In no way is bold text to be used in your article.
9. **Sources:** Names of sources, including printed sources, are to be capitalized and italicized, for example, Times of India would be written as *Times of India*.
10. **Referring to Developed Countries:** The use of the term "third world" is discouraged.
11. **National References:** When referring to any UN member state, or an observer nation, you are only to use standard UN country names, these names match those with which each country signed the UN charter.
12. **Spacing:** One space is enough to separate words, commas, semicolons, colons and periods.
13. **Concision:** The best way to write is to use the least number of words while getting your points across. Try to eliminate redundancy.
14. **Word Limit:** You will be informed of the word limit with each task. We have a 30 word cushion, however crossing this would lead to negative marking.

# Types of Articles

This section elaborates upon the various types of articles that will be printed in the newsletter, and their properties, characteristics, and styles.

## Reports

They are completely factual in nature, and simply recounts the events of the conference. The reader must get a view of the proceedings and understand what has been discussed and accomplished by the delegates. Such pieces require attention to be completely focused on the conference proceedings. They have to be informative as to keep the reader up to date with the conference. This doesn't mean that every detail has to be reported verbatim, A simple summary is required. Approach the executive board or delegates for information.

## Beat Based Articles

Beat reporting is in-depth reporting on a particular event or issue over time. Beat reports are specialized and delved deep into the crux of a story. Beat reporters build up an extensive base of knowledge on the topic, allowing them to provide commentary and insight in addition to reporting straight facts. Thus beat articles are usually more detailed and analytical in nature. Learn everything you can by reading through the background guides or researching online. Be careful not to take stance-beat reports must be neutral. Thus analysis are allowed but evolution of claims is not.

# Types of Articles

## Press Conferences

A press conference is your platform to flaunt your ability to research strategically. The motive of a press conference is to shed light on aspects that have not been explored by asking specific delegates or the entire committee questions. A Press Conference can ensure that a committee considers all aspects of the agendas being discussed. It can be used to hold delegates accountable for their words, actions, policies or even to demonstrate public opinion. Your goal is to ask hard-hitting questions. You may quote a specific delegate, ask them to clear their stance or inquire about their solution. Remember, you would be easily able to ace a press conference if you pay close attention to the discussions taking place in the committee. Research is a crucial element of any press conference. The key to a great Press Conference is confidence, but ensure you do so without being rude or disrespectful to any delegate or the Executive Board.

## Feature Article

A feature is a piece article that lets your creative juices flow. It is open and explorative-any style, poem, prose, free verse can be used. But the pieces must align with your assigned agenda and committee, your vocabulary should be chosen wisely. These pieces should usually be thought-provoking. And may not be factual in nature, but steer clear from making them vague. The reader must understand what messages are being put forth. The focus in this particular type of article should not be in-depth research but accuracy and precision of writing. Use sarcasm, satire, metaphors, etc to present your message.

# *Types of Articles*

## **Interviews**

You are required to conduct an interview with a specific delegate. To conduct an interview you require exhaustive research. You can interview a delegate with a portfolio you feel has a significant role to play in the committee. Remember this is not a press conference and thus, you need to establish a rapport before you start. Request politely, make them feel at ease, it'll only help you get substantial responses. Don't make your source uneasy by asking hard-hitting. Pay attention to their answers, ask follow-up questions for clarity. At the end of the interview ask them if they would like to add something, thank them. You would be required to submit the interview and hence you may take notes, you can frame your questions beforehand.

**FEEL  
FREE TO  
EMAIL/  
DM US!**

# Research Methodology

Journalism requires systematic and strategic research. You are required to prepare in order to understand the debate and recognize points, topics, subtopics for your work. Read through the Background Guides of your allotted committee(s). This will give you have a basic understanding of the agenda. Visit the links it mentions.

Read about the agenda(s) and the various aspects of it. Form a view on the basis of the stance of your agency. Please keep in mind that while reporting you must not include your personal opinions. Reporting is done in an objective manner. Understand the various implications of the debate. This will help you in your Press Conference and Interview. Read about foreign policies and agenda perspectives of nations that you think have a major, or significant impact on the committee.



# Things to Keep in Mind

## Opinion and Analysis~

A clear distinction between factual news and opinions needs to be maintained. Any written piece cannot show any bias or favor a particular side of the dispute. This also holds true for analysis or feature articles, which offers in-depth explanations on particular issues without compromising the standards of fairness

## Discriminatory Language~

We must avoid inappropriate references to gender, culture, religion, ethnicity, appearance, age, etc. Journalists should be sensitive to unconscious stereotyping and dated assumptions. Their language should be neutral. Remove yourself from your mind and write as a third person, i.e. someone from the outside, where the reader probably will be too.

## Submissions~

Deadlines – Punctuality is crucial. Understand that not following deadlines will lead to a chain of implications. You must follow deadlines. Any submissions that cross the deadline will not be accepted.

Format- Name your articles/pieces in the following manner when submitting:

Day-committee-type of article- name

For example, Day 1 – UNSC – Feature – Lakshika

**All the best for the best awaits you!**

**Looking forward to an amazing experience with all of you!**

**Happy researching :)**

**Lakshika and Jahnvi**

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