



THE FIFTY-SIXTH ANNUAL NORTH AMERICAN INVITATIONAL MODEL UNITED NATIONS

Dear Delegates and Moderators,

Welcome to NAIMUN LVI and more specifically welcome to Press Corps. The staff of NAIMUN LVI has been working day and night to make this the most rewarding and educational experience yet, and we are excited to welcome you all to DC in February!

This document is the topic abstract for Press Corps. It contains three key elements to allow you all to prepare well in advance for the committee: topics, structure, and research avenues. The goal of this abstract is to give you a better understanding of the content in the committee. As well, it is meant to be a launch point for further research about the content of this committee. By reading and understanding the topic abstract, you will more fully get a sense of how this committee will be run at NAIMUN and what specific issues the NAIMUN staff want you to focus on.

We hope to be of assistance to you in your preparation for NAIMUN LVI. If you have any questions, comments, or concerns, please feel free to contact the Secretary-General or Director-General. We look forward to welcoming you to the NAIMUN family!

Best,
Chase and Charlotte

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Topic Abstract: Press Corps

In the center of it all, journalism is responsible for informing the public of what is going on in the world. It is a delicate balance between industry and public service, but not often without biases. In your hands will be a craft that is responsible for reporting breaking news, commenting and photographing important events, just to name a few.

As reporters, you are expected to disseminate information. You are telling the story of the people of NAIMUN. Your task throughout the weekend will be to report on the world through the lens of NAIMUN, in whatever medium you see fit. This will include traditional print newspapers, online blogs, photography, broadcast journalism, and short videos. This should be done without distorting the information at hand through explicit and implicit biases. From this, reporters must be aware of their word usage and how they seek to convey certain events to ensure they are remaining true to the facts. Thus, the trick to succeeding in Press Corps is by staying true to your character while also publishing well written articles that accurately portray the events taking place throughout NAIMUN.

Following are tips on the different types of writing styles that you may find beneficial to use:

News: This style of writing is known for getting straight to the facts. The lead usually includes the five W's which includes, what, when, who, where, and why. This usually lends itself to formatting the article in an inverted pyramid style, in which the majority of the information is given first. This is the most efficient dissemination of information and is usually used in faced-paced situations such as breaking news.

Features: These articles usually follow a narrative format, as the writer eases the reader into information, revealing the most important information progressively throughout the article. Sometimes the lead is formatted in what is known as a scene-setter lead, which contains descriptions that use sight, sound, and smell. The goal of this style of



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writing is to make the reader feel as if they were physically present at the event you are reporting on.

Opinions: This is your chance to say what you believe and share your perspective on the situation at hand. A caveat here is that you stay in line with not only the position of your character but the whole media outlet they work for as well!

Regardless of the style of writing you choose to employ there are a few general rules that you should also consider. The first is do not use the passive voice when relaying breaking news. The use of the passive voice often hinders the sense of immediacy that you would like to preserve in a well written article. Additionally, proofread and rewrite. Then, proofread and rewrite. This helps to ensure that you are not overly wordy, redundant or cliché in your writing.

The NAIMUN Press Corps is a storied tradition, and one in which the responsibility to the truth is of the utmost importance. Remember that factual journalism is your first priority.

Resources for Further Research

"Journalism - Principles of good writing: Allan Little." *BBC Academy*. BBC, n.d. Web. 31 May 2018. <<http://www.bbc.co.uk/academy/journalism/article/art20130702112133594>>.

"Welcome to the Purdue OWL." *Purdue OWL: Journalism and Journalistic Writing*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 May 2018. <<https://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/resource/735/05/>>.

"Who, what, when, where, why, and how." *Columbia Journalism Review*. N.p., n.d. Web. 31 May 2018. <http://archives.cjr.org/cover_story/who_what_when.php>.

YourDictionary. "Tips on Writing a News Report." *YourDictionary*. N.p., 23 Aug. 2016. Web. 31 May 2018. <<http://grammar.yourdictionary.com/grammar-rules-and-tips/tips-on-writing-a-news-report.html>>.