

# United Nations Correspondents Association



## Background Guide 2022

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# Introduction

The Association shall be called the United Nations Correspondents Association. Its aims and purposes shall be:

1. To maintain and protect the freedom and prestige of Press, Radio and Television correspondents in all their relations with the United Nations.
2. To promote the interests of its members and to facilitate their personal and professional relationships.
3. To take whatever measures possible to protect the rights of *bona fide* correspondents to secure accreditation and unhindered access to the United Nations Headquarters or regional offices, and to their normally available facilities without discrimination.
4. To undertake any other action, when required, on behalf of Press, Radio and Television correspondents accredited to the United Nations, either at its Headquarters or at any of its regional offices.
5. To facilitate social contact between its members, delegates from member nations of the United Nations, officials of the Secretariat, and other distinguished personalities connected with international affairs.

The above aims and purposes are that of the UNCA, a specialised committee that is under the supervision of the UN.

This year, we plan on simulating the UNCA as much as possible- even if it means memorising each word of this background guide.

This background guide is essentially there to help you, the reader, out with the task of being a member of the UNCA.

Use it wisely.

# A Message from the Head of UNCA

My dearest correspondents,

Congratulations on making it this far!

I can assure you that reaching this far in AMUN is not for the weak-hearted, but you have all handled the pressure wonderfully well. Definitely much better than I did as a ninth grader, when I first joined AMUN as a journalist thinking it's just going to be a bunch of creative writing. True shocker: it was so, so much more than that.

Being a journalist requires you to analyse every word uttered by the delegates (yes, even if it is just criticising school samosas) and present it in a manner that favours your news agency bias but at the same time gets your views across.

Needless to say, my first AMUN conference went horribly, but it holds a very special place in my heart. Developing a love for journalism and creating endless memories buried my disappointment of not winning an award.

Regardless of whether you win an award, I need you to pat yourself on the back and be proud of yourself, because you have all grown wonderfully during these six weeks.

Remember that you, as members of the press, hold immense power. Use it wisely and best of luck!

I have no doubt that all of you will absolutely smash it out of the park :)

Much love,

Nandika Sharma

Head of United Nations Correspondents Association

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.



# A Message from the Head of Journalism

To my wonderfully creative and talented journalists,

All of your hard work has built you up for this moment, and it is finally here. The first offline conference of AMUN since 2019!

I hope I have been able to make this experience as incredible for you as my predecessors did for me. I have loved every second of watching you bloom under the pressure of the conference. Every single one of you has grown exponentially since your first article, and I'm sure you will continue to do the same.

I entered the world of journalism as a naïve 9th grader, ready to finish it off and tell my mom I had tried my best, that MUN just wasn't for me. What I hadn't expected was for me to completely fall in love with it. Understanding the styles through which information is captured and how various hidden biases affect my understanding of situations transformed my world. Through this journey, I hope you have been able to find a safe space in journalistic writing as well.

When you hold the pen, you hold the power to rewrite history. It is your words that control how wars and political figures are remembered. Make sure you don't forget that.

This MUN is the first for many of you, and you may be intimidated by the pressure and stress you'll face; remember that this is what we have been training you for. Trust yourself - you got this. Over the past few months, I've come to know every single one of you, and I know you will perform outstandingly well.

Best of luck, and I'll see you in committee.

Navya Khurana

Head of Journalism

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.

# A Message from the Head of Photography

Greetings photographers,

After two online AMUNs, here we are finally back in the physical space and we can experience MUN in it's truest essence.

Doing photography in AMUN has pushed me out of my comfort zone and helped me become an adaptable photographer.

I hope your learnings from the staybacks will help you through the rigorous two days of the conference. I'll be there to guide you but to bring out the best in yourself you will have to think out of the box. Although it is tough and can be intimidating, it is the only way you will improve and enjoy AMUN.

Looking forward to seeing you in committee. Good luck!

Tuhina Bawa

Head of Photography

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.

# A Message from the Head of Photography

Namaste Delegates,

WELCOME TO ARAVALI MODEL UNITED NATIONS 2022.

I am absolutely honoured to be your head this year. It is great to finally have AMUN in-person. It will be a lot of fun and a lot of work, which is exactly what my motto is - “work hard, play harder”  
!!

This year, I have the privilege of working with an amazing photographer and co-head, Tuhina Bawa, and together we will make sure that these next couple of days push you to give your utmost, to achieve your highest, to be the best photographer that you can be. Over the course of the next two days, your discipline, skills and time management will be tested and, believe me, you will surpass your own expectations. I say this with my own experience as a participant in AMUN in the past two years. But, above all, it will be the experience of a lifetime, one you will cherish and look back upon as one of the most exhilarating and fun times.

So let the games begin !!!

Myra Aashi Jones

Head of Photography

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.



# A Message from the Head of Caricature

Greetings fellow Caricaturists,

Art is not a material, an object, a 'thing', it is an emotion, connecting the minds and souls of those who are passionate about it. It took numerous imperfect art pieces and rejections for me to understand that art is not about being perfect, rather, it is about expressing yourself, evoking emotions in people, and feeling comfortable in your own skin.

I hope that the AMUN will prove to be a fulfilling experience for the aspiring artists taking part in it. Throughout the conference, you will realise that it doesn't matter how the paint is put on, as long as something is said.

Newcomers—at first, the deadlines will seem overwhelming, the projects will demand effort, patience and care, but at the end, it will all seem worth it. You will cherish those moments, relish the memories, face both crisis and comfort. Whenever you need me, I'll be right there, ready to guide you.

Keep the creative juices flowing and stay calm.  
See you in committee . All the best!

Niyatee Talwar

Head of Caricature and Design

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.



# A Message from the Head of Caricature

Dear Caricaturists,

You've been honing your skills for months now and it's finally your time to shine so put your pens to paper and let the ink flow along with the magic of your ideas.

Caricature is a powerful tool as it appeals to the masses and has the ability to persuade and influence with a simple sketch. It provides a platform to merge political thought with creativity and art. Caricature in MUN has taught me how to research, observe committee proceedings and capture the key points in an appealing visual piece. I hope these skills help you both during and after AMUN.

As a Head, I hope I have been able to fulfil your expectations. It has been a pleasure understanding the ideas behind your work and seeing the improvement over the staybacks. Let your love for art guide you through the stressful committees and deadlines and your imagination help you portray multi-faceted topics through light-hearted caricatures.

Looking forward to seeing your final pieces! I know each of you will do incredibly well!

Ananya Bansal

Head of Caricature and Design

Aravali Model United Nations, 2022.

# The Crisis

The crisis is probably the one thing all the committees, including the press, have in common. Every year, the Executive Board delights in making you, the journalists, photographers and caricaturists panic.

Crises vary. Most of the time, a crisis for the photographers will be posed differently than one for the journalists. However, this year, we fully intend on merging the three sections of the UNCA together for the crisis.

The crisis is never revealed to you beforehand but most-likely always happens on the second day of conference. It is a period of fast-thinking and fast working. This is when you channel your inner detective. Most (keyword: most) crises throw you in the middle of an unsolved mystery that you, as a correspondent, are required to solve.

Crises are not for the weak hearted but we, the executive board members of the UNCA, believe that our correspondents have what it takes to get through every crisis and emerge victorious.

All the best!

# Rules & Regulations

1. Everyone must stick to the dress code.

The dress code for the conference days are Western formals or Indian formals.

2. UNCA members cannot under any circumstance disturb committee proceedings. You are there as an external observer and must act as such. In case you need clarification on something or have a doubt, privately approach/send a chit to a member of the committee's executive board.

3. No form of plagiarism will be tolerated. If any of your work is found to be plagiarised, you will be immediately disqualified from the conference.

4. All UNCA members must be on their best behaviour. If disruptive behaviour is reported by an Executive Board member or observed, the delegate will be disqualified immediately.



# Journalism



# How to Research Your Agenda

Though you may not be a delegate, research is just as important for members of the UNCA. Your research gives your article a foundation, some ground to stand upon. It helps you substantiate your article with statistics (if required) and convinces the reader that whoever wrote that article was extremely well-informed.

But, researching an agenda can feel very overwhelming. While how much you research is important and the more you know the better it is for you, how you research is the first difference between doing your job and doing it well. While this isn't the only way to research and different approaches work for different people, here's a list of things that should keep you afloat.

*Some Important Points:*

1. **DO NOT USE WIKIPEDIA.**

While it is a good place to start, do not EVER use facts or statistics mentioned on Wikipedia in your articles. Wikipedia is an unreliable source but it gives you a good summary of what you need to research more in depth.

2. **Start with the background guide.** Read the entire background of the committee you've been assigned at least twice to absorb all that is in there and keep it handy for reference. You might want to download it for easy access even during the conference.

3. When you're familiar with the overall flow of the background guide, go through any **recommended research sites** or sources cited on it.

4. Now look up **unfamiliar terms** in the guide. Never heard of extradition? Google it. What's China's 'one country, two systems' policy? Google it. The internet is truly a blessing for research.

5. Look up the **different subheadings** in the guide. The internet will take you down a wormhole, go with it. Just remember to draw the line when you hit Reddit or Tumblr (they have a weird number of backlinks).

6. Look up the **people and events** mentioned in the guide. You might want to look for documentaries on these, they tend to be better rounded than websites in this case. That does not, however, mean that you won't go through websites. Start with documentaries, interviews, panel discussions, press conferences, speeches etc., and then move to sites and articles.

7. **Bonus points for finding work done on them by your news agency.** Honestly. You'd have hit a jackpot.

8. Double bonus for **finding pdfs of the relevant documents**, treaties, charters, agreements etc.

9. **Don't accept anything at face value**, probe deeper into every little thing you're presented with

10. You **might want to compile everything** you find relevant in a Word document or notebook, anything you can access easily

11. **Read up until you're convinced**; if you don't buy it you won't be able to make anyone else buy it.

# News Agency Bias

## *What is a news agency bias?*

All newsrooms, whether they belong to legacy media houses or form part of the newer Press space, have a certain narrative they create by what they choose to (or not to as the case may be) tell. These patterns of inclusion and omission create an agency's unique style of reportage.

## *What does that mean to me?*

Everything. Your agency decides what opinions you are or aren't allowed to have. Your interactions with the agenda of your committee are shaped by the nature of your agency's bias. Think of it as a foreign policy but greyer. The principles guiding your bias determine who you can choose to draw/interview/photograph (more on that later).

## *How do I work with my bias?*

### *If you're a paper funded by the government:*

- 1) Chances are you'll be state-centric to the point of sycophancy. The policies of your government are yours, their friends yours, their enemies yours.
- 2) Interview delegates who are in the same bloc as your country or share the same ideals
- 3) Toe the line of controversy. Toe only. Unless your country allows a fair deal of press freedom.

### *If you're a privately funded paper:*

- 1) Check this out - <https://awritingguide.com/2016/04/15/writing-subtlety/>
- 2) You (probably) have an additional layer of censorship in the form of a Board of Directors or Trustees. You have to (!!!!!) be subtle in the way you present your case. This goes for photographers and caricaturists too. Be bold but not in-your-face.
- 3) The interests of your advertisers are important. If you started losing advertisers after some radical change and running short of money, strike a balance.



For example, the New York Times published this comic in 2014 when an Indian satellite reached Mars. It mocks Mangalyaan, India's Mars mission, showing a dhoti-clad peasant dragging his cow as he knocks on the doors of the 'Elite Space Club' demanding to be let in:



This image clearly depicts India as a country below themselves. Hence, NYT tends to have an anti-India bias. However, this bias can change according to the agenda & happenings of your committee, so pay attention to that.

*How important is it that I follow my agency's bias?*

Your agency bias is just a set of principles you need to keep in mind when working on your pieces and honesty is a very grey concept. Think of it this way, not following your agency's bias is essentially like robbing someone everything that makes them: their identity.

Treat the set of words you identify as your principles as the gist of what your work should convey emotionally. That said, biases are a dynamic concept and may change as committee progresses.

State funded papers will tend to grow nationalistic if a war is declared. Sides and



stances of papers will change with changes in the international or domestic order. Wrap committee proceedings around your bias. Twist the proceedings of committee (moderately) so that they fit the bias your news agency has.

# Good Writing vs. Writing Well

Saying a particular work of writing is ‘good!’ doesn’t tell much about the work, does it?

**Good writing** is the bare minimum expected of all journalists. It basically states that the piece is well-intentioned and is restricted to the content of the piece.

Good writing is:

- Fact checked and backed by evidence
- Original
- Fairly obtained
- Respectfully presented

**Writing Well:**

A well-written work of writing correlates to effective quality of content and presentation. It shows going the extra mile for an article but it is meaningless if the writing is not inherently good.

It is difficult to define all the characteristics of a well-written piece but it is easy to spot it.

Writing well involves:

- Concise yet comprehensive pieces
- Adaptation writing styles and structures suited to the needs of the article
- Thoughtful selection of words
- Understanding of readership
- Acknowledgement of possible biases
- Presentation of alternate viewpoints
- Empathizing with the subjects
- Thorough research
- Valid reasoning
- An absence of logical fallacies

# Grammar

What is a good article without proper grammar? Nothing! (At least in ICSE and AMUN).

This Grammar guide is meant to help you recap all the concepts that, ideally, should be stuck in your brain by now. It is here whenever you need help to remember where a semi-colon goes, or how to punctuate. Use it well.

1) **Capitalization**- It should always be used to indicate the beginning of a sentence, and with reference to people, institutions/organizations or locations. Avoid capitalizing words in your articles to make a point, like this-  
E.g. - “I DO NOT THINK THIS IS GOOD”, said the delegate of Iran.

2) **Italics**- This is used to draw the reader’s attention to a particular word or phrase. All quotes must be in italics and in inverted commas (“”). Your quotes can also be in inverted commas only, without the italics.  
Example: “Too much agreement kills a chat,” the delegate of Rwanda quipped.  
*Please note that all quotes and statements made in a language that is not English must be in italics.*

3) **Dates**- Dates must be written in the British (DD/MM/YY) format. Dates can also be written as: December 25th, 2017. Time zones are important to keep in mind if you are reporting on an event that occurred at a significant time. You may write a.m. /p.m. as per your discretion.

4) **Numbers**- Numbers between zero-ten must be in words, whereas numbers 10 onwards may be written in the numerical format.

5) **Accents**- Some languages, especially Spanish and French, use accents to change the sound of a letter and put greater stress on it while speaking. It is represented as “é” over a letter.

Depending on your news agency and your report, the use of accents should be limited to the names of individuals. If using non-English words, remember to include the proper English definition in brackets ‘()’ along with it.

6) **Comma vs. Semicolon**- Commas (,) are a punctuation mark that appear on the baseline of text, similar in shape to apostrophes. They indicate a brief pause in the sentence, unlike periods (.) that customarily indicate an end to the sentence. Semicolons (;) are major sentence separators. They link two similar independent clauses/sentences. Do not use commas to replace semicolons. A semicolon can replace a period. This narrows the gap between two closely-linked sentences. (Example: They have paid their dues; the government must honour the contract.) Apostrophes are used either to indicate the possession of something or the omission of letters. The most common omissions include can't, shouldn't and won't.

7) **Personal Pronouns**- Refrain from using personal pronouns, especially "I", in any of your formal articles. Always write in the third person, as in "the reporter thinks that...", 'in the opinion of the reporter...'

8) **Tense**- No matter the time stamp of your committee, or the type of article, please, we beg you,

*Do not write in present tense! Always write your pieces in past tense!*

9) **Quotes** - All quotes must be italicized and quotation marks. Use ... if you wish to not include something a delegate mentioned. If the person being quoted refers to information the readers' would be unaware of, use [].

For example,

*"...the United States of America must be held responsible [for reparations]"*



# Standard Article Format

- 1) The Title/Headline of the piece must be *bold in size 14*.
- 2) The by-line introducing yourself must be in *italics and size 11*.
- 3) All your articles must be written in *Times New Roman Font (size 12 for the main content)*.
- 4) They must be done on *Microsoft Word* (no other platform).
- 5) The document must be named like this:

NewsAgency\_Committee Assigned\_Type of Article

E.g. - TheIndianExpress\_WHO\_OpinionEditorial

For example,

**Title or Headline (size 14)**

*Byline (Size 11)*

Content (Size 12)

*Not adhering to guidelines will lead to deduction of marks.*

Any sites/documents referred to must be mentioned in the bibliography.

# Formal Articles

# News Reports

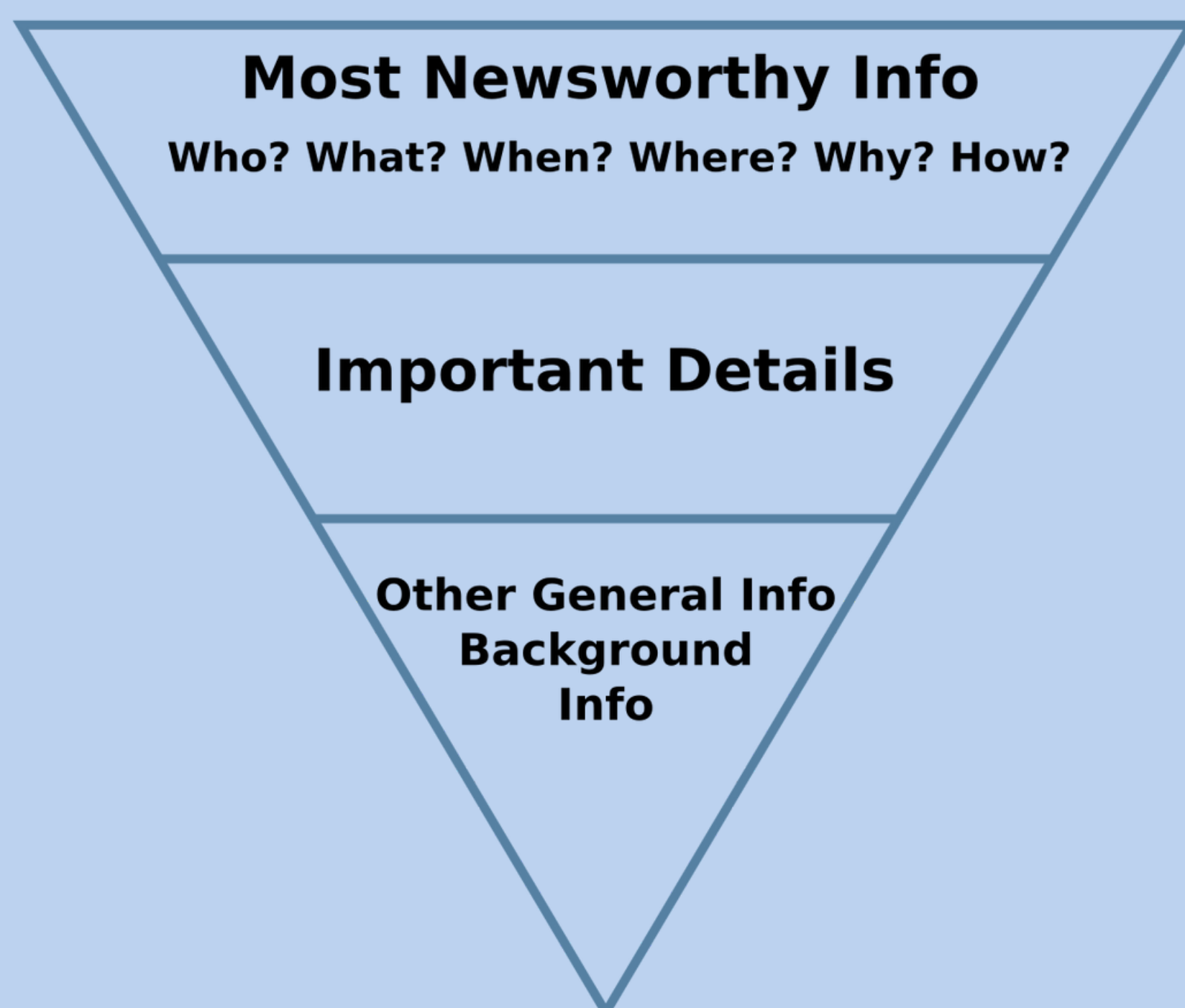
A News Report summarises all relevant information on events that occurred that day. These are highly objective pieces. Although no opinions or analysis are entertained in this piece, you are still required to highlight your news agency bias. One way to do this is to present your information favourably to the readers. A good News Report requires extensive observation, so make sure you are paying attention and noting important details throughout the day.

Word Limit: 350 – 400 words

Style and Structure: Use passive voice. *If you find yourself needing to refer to yourself anywhere in the article, you are doing it wrong.* This article is written in the past tense.

Get creative with the headline, but also make sure it summarises the events well.

The news reported follows as Inverted Pyramid structure. This basically implies that the article begins with a hard lede and then presents information in decreasing order of importance.



News reports also contain a hard lede. A hard lede is an opening paragraph that reveals the 5Ws + H (What? Why? Where? When? Who? How?)

*Example of a Hard Lede:*

The Security Council<sup>1</sup> conducted a debate regarding the acceptance of members of the LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, and Queer) community and their human rights in India.<sup>2</sup> It was conducted at 3:00 pm on Tuesday, April 16, 2019,<sup>3</sup> in the physics lab of The Shri Ram School.<sup>4</sup> The delegates were required to speak for or against the topic.<sup>5</sup> Through this exercise, the delegates learnt to raise points against the opposition related to the agenda.<sup>6</sup>

1	2	3	4	5	6
who	what	when	where	how	why



## Editor's Choice:

### **Palestine: A Fight for East Jerusalem, and the Looming Threat of War**

*Navya Khurana reports on the debate that took place in the Genovese Family Committee regarding the Palestinian territory crisis – does the answer lie in peace or violence?*

On the 8th of May, during the early hours of the day, the Russian and Egyptian El-Dabaa plant in Egypt was taken over by men chanting for Palestine – they wanted territory in East Jerusalem, territory Israel has control over. For the same reason, Hamas, a Palestinian militant group, bombed parts of Israel. In retaliation, Israel conducted air strikes over Palestine. To prevent the situation from deteriorating, an emergency meeting was held on 19th July by the Genovese Committee via Microsoft Teams at 2:40 p.m.

The representative of Egypt claimed that the attack on the El-Dabaa was one planned by the United States of America (USA), and declared war on them. Israel, however, stated that war would be a futile waste and would do more harm than good. They proposed to recognize the entirety of Jerusalem (both East and West) as a place given to a certain number of Palestinians, under the Israeli rule. But, in the unfortunate circumstances of war, they would stand with the USA. Representatives of Jordan and Turkey also declared their support for the USA in the off chance of war, with the latter stating that although they had supported Palestine before, Palestine had resorted to violence, and so Turkey could no longer support their actions. Turkey would also stop exporting arms to Russia (they had also declared war on the USA), although they were the country's biggest trade partner.

However, Palestine denied all allegations of war, the representative claiming that they only want peace. It was the USA that had released a press statement, stating peace is not an option, and due to that the representative suspected that they were behind all the chaos. They even claimed that the USA had never wanted peace to begin with - the United States of America and the United Kingdom (UK) suggested peace talks, but they backed out at the last minute, leaving the representative of Palestine very disappointed.

The USA and UK recognized Hamas as a terrorist organization, a move not appreciated by Palestine. Now, countries like Jordan and Turkey have begun recruiting people for their army and preparing for war. There is little hope for peace.

## Editor's Choice:

### Los Hermanos de la Familia Genovese

*Nandika Sharma of The Washington Post reports on the happenings in the Genovese family*

Beginning at 11:15 a.m. on October 8th, 2021, the Genovese family committee has had a productive conference day. With aim of becoming the largest crime family in New York, their members have come up with various strategies and directives to dominate their opposing families which include Bonanno, Lucchese, Colombo and Gambino.

The committee opens with the news of Vito Genovese, the boss or the head of the Genovese family being imprisoned. However, he continued to regulate his family from prison. In his absence, Anthony Strollo was the acting head. As part of his opening speech, he stated that he wants to increase money laundering as well as loan sharking. He thinks building and expanding on their forte will be the best strategy to build an empire.

The first crisis update included details regarding the interception of cocaine being delivered to the Gambino family. However, the Gambino family was one step ahead and rampaged the trucks and acquired the drugs again. They killed fifteen Genovese soldiers and captured one for confidential information. Anthony Salerno, the underboss of the Genovese family, stated “new and untrustworthy moles must be cut off immediately.” He also wanted to hoard weapons at all safe houses. Many members mentioned in their speech that the captured soldier must be killed immediately.

After hearing that twelve British hitmen who call themselves the “peaky blinders” will be attacking four Genovese safehouses: Jasper, Rosendale, East Hampton and Poughkeepsie, security standards were brought up and weapons were stockpiled. Speaking with the Gambino family in neutral territory in a non-combative manner was also proposed by Mike Genovese, brother of Vito Genovese.

Towards the end of the committee session, Vito Genovese visited the committee. He is currently out of imprisonment and is disappointed in the committee. He did reveal that there is a mole in the family itself. Speculations have been flying around that it is Joseph Riccobono, who served as an assistant to Carlo Gambino and now works as a spy for Genovese. All attacks from the Gambino family were planned and Riccobono did not inform the committee. Not just that, the Gambino family received intel about the drug interception from someone. Committee speculates that it is Riccobono who is passing information on to them.



# Beats

Beat-based reports involve an in-depth analysis of a specific facet of the committee proceedings. Here, a smaller part of a larger agenda is thoroughly examined. It goes beyond the presentation of straight facts. It must involve analysis, insight and commentary.

In the real world, beat reporters follow-up on their specified beat for long periods of time. At MUNs, however, these are not followed-up on and every beat has a new topic.

As a beat reporter, one must have a considerable familiarity with a topic that can only be attained through research. One must be constantly updated on all developments related to the topic. A journalist must understand the proposition and opposition of the topic and address the beat wholesomely. If your beat is about a problem discussed in committee, you may assess the viability of proposed solutions or argue for your own.

Your agency bias will determine your perspective on a beat. However, the bias must be subtly expressed. Don't write "The wall is stupid, mean and racist". Explain the concept of the wall, and then systematically evaluate this idea. For example,

"The wall is supposed to be the Trump Administration's attempt to solve the unemployment problem. While it may decrease the employment of undocumented Americans by 2%, organizational sociologists still believe that it will fail to provide what is known as 'meaningful employment' in the country..."

As always, your news agency bias determines which side you argue for.

All the facts, data and information referred to in the beat-based report must be cited, and sources must be credible.

Word Limit: 350 – 400 words

**Style and Structure:** Use passive voice and refer to yourself in the third person pronoun (ex. The journalist understands....). Avoid referring to yourself entirely. This article is written in the present tense.

These articles have titles instead of headlines.

News Reports	Beats
Includes a larger variety of information. Provides an overall narration of what happened in committee.	Examines a small part of committee proceedings.
News reports only report what happens in committee. Don't write your own analysis on what delegates say.	Beats require a large amount of analysis from the journalist.



# Editor's Choice:

## **The Devil Works Hard, but the Delegates Work Harder**

*Navya Khurana writes about the stress-inducing situation in the Ad-Hoc National Security Cabinet*

The Executive Board (EB) of the Ad-Hoc National Security Cabinet has decided to launch the 'delegates' into a full-swung crisis. Stuck in the horrific situation of September 11, 2001, the committee is having an emergency meeting in the 'White House Situation Room' (which is, in reality, just a Microsoft Teams call) to face the problem at hand – two passenger airliners have crashed into the North and South towers of the World Trade Centre in New York. Both planes were hijacked mid-air by teams of armed terrorists. There are unconfirmed reports of civilian casualties, with numbers increasing over 1,000 with another 3,000 injured. A crisis update soon followed, with the EB reporting information of a third airplane crashing into the Pentagon. Major personnel were lost in the disaster.

The representatives in Cabinet look stressed and overwhelmed. The Chair, who is acting as the President of the United States of America (USA), is aggressively asking different 'delegates' about their plan of action. Each representative is doing their best to deliver to the painstakingly high expectations of their Chair, but only few succeed. One such successful representative is the Secretary of Defense, who proposed to close the air space of the United States of America (USA). It was passed immediately, after voting, which was commenced by the President. Another such representative proposed to initiate DEFCON (defence readiness condition) 3, which was also passed by the President.

The first-timers, however, when forced to speak by the President, tend to raise points that aren't as relevant. A representative proposed examining CCTV and catching the culprit responsible for the hijack. Another from the Federal Bureau of Investigation proposed to start a domestic investigation and to deploy all special agents to different parts of the world to gather intel. Such unlucky representatives, who bring up points that aren't directly relevant to the agenda, are reprimanded by the President, and the situation always results in firm words from the EB.

The EB members continue to grill the 'delegates' for actions to be taken, and the representatives continue to do their best to impress the EB when they give a speech. Even through the laptop screen, one can hear the rapid heartbeats of each representative and only hope that they succeed in their brave ventures.

# Editor's Choice:

## The Blame Game

*Nandika Sharma of the New York Times simplifies the humanitarian crisis in Darfur*

February 19th, 2003 marked the beginning of the devastating armed conflicts in the Darfur region of western Sudan. In 2003 itself millions of citizens were internally and externally displaced as insurgent troops marched across the regions engaging in regular acts of violence. It soon transformed into a deadly humanitarian crisis with over 200,000 people dead in the first year and remaining living without basic necessities amidst war.

Today, on January 18th, 2009 conditions are anything but better. Displaced women within and outside the region of Darfur are becoming victims of sexual assault by government forces, allied militia, rebels, and criminal groups. Amidst the bombings, lootings and killings orchestrated by the Janjaweed, neighbouring countries are now forming allies with western and more developed countries to bomb Darfur. According to the most recent update, Chad and the United Kingdom formed alliance for a suicide bombing in an oil field in western Sudan which burned a major oil factory to the ground while causing heavy casualties.

In a statement made immediately after this update, the delegate of Chad made an unexpected claim on the crisis at hand. The delegate denied allegations of wilfully forming alliance with the United Kingdom, creating immediate uproar in the committee. The delegate went on to say that Chad “was threatened by the United Kingdom to cooperate” and that “the United Kingdom approached Chad with the strategy of attacking Darfur for the sole purpose of manipulating the international market.”

The delegate of the United Kingdom completely denied these accusations in his speech. Instead, he said that “Chad was as much a part of the bombing as the United Kingdom.” The delegate went on to justify the bombing by saying that it “had to be done in order save the suppressed people of Sudan.”

The delegates of the United Kingdom and Chad continue to point fingers at each other while the heated conflict continues to escalate. Instead of taking effective actions on deescalating the situation at hand, they are putting in efforts to demean the opposing country. This blame game has interfered with the committee proceedings and formation of blocs as well. It would be in the best interest of all countries to collaborate and produce a constructive resolution.



# Opinion Editorial

An op-ed is basically an article that aims to convince a reader to form an opinion for/against a country, something, or someone. You want to convince the reader that your opinion is the best possible opinion.

Let's say that the delegate of Qatar says that Pakistani base camps were attacked by India to create popularity for the current ruling party and to increase their votes in the coming elections. It is up to me as a journalist to agree/disagree with this statement, but through the op-ed I must explain why I believe that statement is right or wrong. Of course, your news agency bias decrees which side you take. Your job as a journalist is to provide support to the argument or break it down using your words and analysis.

If I choose to disagree with this stance, I can write:

*Prime Minister Narendra Modi may have done this to get votes as Pakistan has directly or indirectly attacked our country numerous times, and this can be seen as India's retaliation. However, seeing the Prime Minister's past efforts to genuinely make India a better and cleaner city proves that he is a man who does not need to attack a country to obtain votes. It is hard to hold the delegate's point of view at a high standard, as there are many speculations that Qatar supports terrorism as well... (this is where you can bring in references to the past where Qatar has supported terrorism).*

This should explain how you can inter-weave your analysis and quotes into committee proceedings throughout the article.

To create well-made arguments, you must deeply understand all parts of your agenda as deeply as the internet allows, as well as understand all the fallacies and biases under it. To create the best argument that you possibly can, you need to be as well versed on the subject. This article is where research is the most important.



**Word Limit: 500 to 650 words.**

**Style and Structure:** A common structure is ‘funnel’ which moves from general to specific. There are no stylistic restrictions besides citing your source for any knowledge.

**Make sure you give a background of what’s happening in committee so that the reader can understand what’s happening.**

# Editor's Choice:

## Actions Speak Louder Than Words

*Nandika Sharma of the New York Times on the unforgiving humanitarian crisis in Darfur*

*“Wars don’t bring lasting peace, only lasting death.”*

*-Janet Morris*

Peace talks, financial funding and flamboyant speeches have all been futile attempts at bringing an end to this humanitarian crisis. Death tolls are rising exponentially, and those who are not dying are excruciatingly suffering every single day of their life. Big leaders of the world meet every week to discuss the problem at hand. They meet in air-conditioned rooms with hot coffee while millions in Sudan are on the streets, trying to survive one day at a time.

Darfur is at the peak of its crisis. With militia groups throwing regular raids and insurgent groups practising regular acts of violence, Darfur is at its breaking point. While the term ‘humanitarian crisis’ is often used to describe the turmoil in Sudan, it is important to put that phrase in context. A humanitarian crisis does not simply imply individuals being stripped of basic needs and living expenses. It is a state of complete political and economic chaos caused due to mismanagement of the government. The Sudanese government needs to take accountability and bring about an actionable plan in alliance with the states willing to help them.

Recently, a massive suicide bombing took place in the oil fields of Sudan. A major oil factory was burned to the ground and caused tremendous havoc. While the casualties are unknown, they are said to be in large numbers. The Republic of Chad and the United Kingdom (UK) were disclosed to be behind this plan of action. However, in a speech, the Representative of Chad denied having formed allies with the UK. He stated that he was “threatened to cooperate with the UK” and that they “attacked Sudan only to manipulate the international market.” Following this speech was the Representative of the UK's speech. He stated that “The UK takes full accountability for the suffering and pain caused to the people of Sudan but Chad holds as much responsibility for the bombing as we do.” He says, on the other hand, Chad was one who approached him with the strategy of bombing Sudan.

Both of these countries had made big promises of constant support and aid to the country in need. The Representative of the UK still feels that the bombing was done to “save the suppressed citizens from the Chinese and Sudanese governments.” It was evident that none of their empty words was backed by action.

The Representative of China also made an extremely impactful speech on “disability pride month” and how weapons are destroying lives. She also mentioned how special focus is required on vulnerable groups such as women, children and ethnic populations. At the same time, 90% of Darfur’s weaponry happens to come from China.

The Representative of the United States of America (USA), on the other hand, stated many strategic plans that they later implemented. From setting up refugee camps to providing millions of dollars as aid, the States followed through with their statements and contributed to putting an end to the endless suffering. What Sudan needs right now is proper support for governance and humanitarian aid packages. According to the delegate, the USA will continue to be an active ally for Sudan in these unprecedented times.



# Editor's Choice:

## Blaming West Pakistan: The Trend being Followed

*Navya Khurana of the Associated Press of Pakistan analyses the happenings of the Ad-Hoc National Security Cabinet*

East Pakistanis have been trying to escape the territory ever since the West Pakistani military arrived and took action in an attempt to suppress the rebellion. Ten thousand refugees are fleeing from East Pakistan and waiting to be admitted into India. So, on 25th March 1971, the Ad-Hoc National Security Cabinet held a meet to create a plan of actions to be followed.

The Finance Minister stated that India should reach out to the United Nations (UN) and other countries to impose sanctions on the Pakistan government. He also proposed to ask the United States of America (USA) to not support the West Pakistani government, saying that if West Pakistan still gains USA's support, they will be forced to take the Soviet Union's support and assistance in the war. The involvement of other countries at such a scale could launch a full swung war. It would be dangerous to take such steps.

The Secretary of State said that India has always been help-loving and peaceful. He proposes to start talks with Pakistan and see if they can stop committing "mass murder." The West Pakistani military would not have been forced to take such strong actions against East Pakistanis if the rebellions had not happened in the first place. The Razakars have only been deployed for suppression; there is no such intentional "murder" taking place.

The Minister of Rail Transport and Communication stated that when the cyclone hit East Pakistan, there were many losses, and the government allegedly did not help. She said that the rebellion was justified and that the East Pakistani's interest was not looked into. West Pakistan did take action – during a press conference, General Yahya Khan stated that the central government had approved a plan for the long-term construction of the areas affected by the cyclone and for permanent settlement of their inhabitants. Almost eight-six crore rupees were spent on this project. This can hardly be described as 'no action'. The government has clearly shown that they care.

Many representatives are in favour of fully supporting Mukti Bahani, the rebelling East Pakistani force. Some of them have also proposed to teach the East Pakistani women self-defence, so that they may 'protect themselves'. There is no protection required – the Razakars is only taking action against rebels. As long as one is innocent, they have no reason to worry.

Besides, there is no surety that the skills taught to the East Pakistani forces would not negatively affect the Indians later on. As our honourable General Ayub Khan has written in

his 1976 memoirs – the East Pakistanis have complexes and aggressiveness that emerge due to their historical background.

The committee seems adamant to see the situation primarily from East Pakistan's viewpoint – seemingly no representatives are trying to see the government's point of view. The bias against Pakistan can be seen; it's about time the West Pakistani government was given a chance.

# Informal Articles



# Fluff

In one word, fluffs are exactly that- fluffy. They are meant to be funny, quirky, witty, sarcastic, and amazing. As a reporter of a news agency, fluffs are probably the only article where your bias will not matter.

Your fluff piece can be on anything you want - from the delegate taking selfies in committee, to how cold the room is. Most fluffs are an insight into the behaviour of the delegates behind the scenes. Some are odes to the MUN snacks, such as the widely known samosa. But it is not restricted to that - it could be about literally anything.

Your fluffs can follow any form or style that you want- whether it be a parody of a song, a small paragraph, a poem, etc. In the end, fluffs are a fun break from the monotony of the formal articles. Basically, it's a creative piece. You can even write this one in first person! Make sure your piece is something funny, something witty.

**Word Limit:** We expect a minimum of 100 words, but there's no cap.

**Structure:** There is no structure as to how you should write a fluff.

## Editor's Choice:

### Oops, He Did It Again!

*Nandika Sharma watches a delegate stumble through his speech*

Delegates nervously put their cameras on  
as the very first moderated caucus begins.

Every single one of them  
wants to be the one who wins.

They open with the underboss at Genovese  
who confidently and flawlessly delivers his speech.

The manager speaks next, EB insists  
but instead, he asks to be moved down the list.

His dreaded turn finally arrives  
and he nervously puts his camera on, hoping he survives.

He stutters at the first word, asks to start again  
but that does not seem to help, he stutters yet again.

Delegates fight back laughs  
while the EB tells him to take a minute.  
He hopes he'll be able to return to AMUN in spirit.

He mumbles his way through the first line,  
then stares at the screen for a while.  
Trying his best to remember what to say,  
while his fellow members chuckle at the delay.

He then tries to complete his speech in a hurry,  
but his audio turns out to be slurry.

"I can't do this right now,"  
he says, then switches his camera off.

We pray, for the trauma he had to withstand.

# Editor's Choice:

## Brew a Sleep Draught with Me!

*Navya Khurana writes about the sleep-inducing situation of committee*

If you are reading this, chances are you have found yourself in committee, bored out of your mind. Does anyone know what is going on? Certainly not you! To put an end to your suffering, you could make this sleep potion. The ingredients used will surely increase your sleepiness – they are already present in your surroundings, just in lesser concentration!

Witchy elements used:

1. 16 bottles of bored representatives
2. A bucket of crystallized confusion
3. 1 ½ tablespoons of low energy speeches
4. ½ teaspoon of no points of information (like, ever.)
5. A handful of ‘I believe that...’
6. A few drops of overconfidence (just for that one representative who is *super* enthusiastic)
7. A trickle of accidentally un-muting your mic

Other ingredients required:

8. A fire lit on the speeches left undelivered out of fear.
9. A cauldron (preferably gold, to save yourself from the terrible taste of the other elements).

That’s it!

To evolve the perfect potion, follow the instructions:

1. Place your cauldron on top of the fire and pour all the bottles of bored representatives into the cauldron. Wait for it to boil.

2. Slowly pour the bucket of confusion into the cauldron until the concoction is a greyish-blue shade (aptly representing the baffled representatives). Sprinkle in some overconfidence. It is important to get the right ratio between these elements! The absolute chaos it creates gets on your body’s nerves (both metaphorically and literally) and causes your body to shut down. That’s exactly what we want!

3. In the final step, add the remaining ingredients. Keep the cauldron on the fire for about 10-15 minutes, or till it turns into a dark grey sluggish mixture – much like your laptop screen in committee (it’s the lack of turned-on cameras for me).

Your sleeping draught is now ready for consumption! Enjoy the much-needed rest. Let’s pray that the Executive Board doesn’t realize you aren’t listening to committee...

# Editor's Choice:

## Dreadful Directives and Gruesome Grammar

*Navya Khurana of the Associated Press of Pakistan talks about the sadness unleashed by the Executive Board (EB)*

The 'delegates' are directly staring at me;  
Their eyes are boring into my soul.  
A little creeped out, I watch them as  
The EB puts pressure on them (it's so cruel).

The directive they worked on is thrown in the trash  
The 'delegates' want to cry,  
A girl looks devastated, another is annoyed  
The EB doesn't seem to get it.

The grammar of the paper is difficult to read  
To the point that it doesn't make sense  
They all feel the pressure but can't make the changes –  
It's too late; the directive's been sent.

The 'delegates' still haven't figure out  
How to impress their harsh heads.  
Committee altogether looks like they want to  
Go and crash on their beds.



## Editor's Choice:

### The Bird at My Window

*Nandika Sharma stalks a pigeon*

While presidential statements come my way,  
My mind is far, far away.  
I notice a bird, sitting at my window sill,  
As Kuwait and Iraq fight over an oil mill.  
I watch the bird fly to nearby trees,  
While the EB members try to mute the attendees.  
I continue staring at the pigeon, as it comes closer to my window,  
Why does formal debate seem to be moving so slow?  
MUN has been proceeding sluggishly,  
And a pigeon's life is way more interesting than General Assembly!

# Tweets

Although we won't be using twitter for this piece, it is helpful to have a basic idea on what good tweets are.

There are two ways you can approach this piece.

1. You can write a summary of an event that stuck out to you in committee.
2. You can also write a satirical or sarcastic tweet about something that happens in committee.

We'd highly highly prefer if you go the second route - this is another piece where we want your creative side to stick out. Brownie points for humour.

You are allowed to create twitter threads, like this:



A tweet in a thread would not be considered as a separate tweet, i.e., when we ask for 3 tweets, we would want 3 separate tweets, which may or may not contain a whole thread.

Remember: a twitter thread is not compulsory!

Word limit: 280 characters (this also includes spaces!!!!!!)

## Editor's Choice:

### From Sudan, With Love

*Nandika Sharma of the New York Times on the multifaceted crisis in Darfur*

Tweet 1: What is most needed in Darfur currently is international peacekeeping, protection and stable governance. It happens to be slightly ironic that the Sudanese government is avoiding all of the above like a plague.

Tweet 2: Crime fiction is one of the most read genres. However, people are generally interested in this genre when they are safely distant from crime. This is how you know crime fiction is widely unpopular in Sudan.

Tweet 3: 2003 was a great year. While the United States was celebrating the release of *Legally Blonde 2* and England was congratulating Mick Jagger of *The Rolling Stones* on receiving knighthood, Sudan was praying its way out of insurgent attacks and dying of starvation.

## Editor's Choice:

The Washington Post [03:07]: The Gambino family reverse intercepted their drug trade at the port of Gioia Tauro and killed fifteen Genovese soldiers. They also kept one soldier to acquire insider information.

The Washington Post [3:59]: Robert B. Meyner, Governor of New Jersey, has been bribed by the Genovese family to establish casinos so that they can increase their illegal gambling business.



# Feature

A feature article expresses soft news expressively.

What does that mean?

For the answer to the above, let us look at the difference between Hard News and Soft News.

Hard News consists only of information of urgency and significance. It relies on facts and analysis. It aims to inform readers. This is what you write in beats and news reports.

Soft News is enlightenment. It relies on stories, descriptions, relatability, emotions and other such whimsical aspects of the human mind to get across a piece of news. It aims to compel readers to feel a certain way. This is what you write in features.

Feature articles are ‘sidebar’ to the ‘mainbar’. Imagine a headline in bold above an article taking up a quarter of the front page of a newspaper, “Golden Temple Attacked, Casualties Unknown”. This would be a news report, therefore, hard news in nature. Recalling your hard lede format, you can imagine what a hard lede for this would be like. It would be something to the effect, “On 3rd, 1984, the Indian army opened fire at the Golden Temple in Amritsar after reports confirmed that Jarnail Singh Bhindranwale, a Sikh preacher and leader, had occupied the temple with arms, weapons and ammunition alongside his followers.”

On its side, you find a much smaller headline with only a tiny portion of the lede available to read. It says, “All that glisters is no longer gold: The Golden Temple Attack through the Eyes of a Historic Restoration Architect”.

This is a feature.

Features use soft ledes. Unlike hard ledes, soft ledes have no defined structure. They are also called, ‘delayed ledes’ since need not restrict themselves to the opening paragraph and may span over many. Also, these do not need to be at the beginning of the article. They could be in the end too. They indicate to the reader the topic of the article.

They focus on topics of human-interest. This is understood as topics that the average reader would find interesting. This article aims to tap into the emotions of the reader and make them empathise for the situation you're writing about. As mentioned earlier, you can find a variety of forms of feature articles. To give you an idea, some forms include profiles, interviews, spot features, live in features, trend features, historical features, anecdotes, sketches' and popularised science features.

Something to keep in mind – depending on the type of your article, the tone of your piece should be informal/formal. For example, if there's a war, no person is going to write about how "disaster has struck the land." Similarly, if you're intercepting a letter from, say, a 7 year old, the letter should reflect the writing abilities of a 7 year old only. Make sure the style of your feature matches the expected tone of the writer.

**Word Limit - 300-400 words**

**Style and Structure:** Slow ledes are recommended. Unlike hard news, there is no stress on communicating with sparing use of words.

# Editor's Choice:

## Troubled Jets and Troubled Thoughts

*Navya Khurana reveals the writings of a father, who endured the negative effects of war*

On the 6th of April, 4 Chengdu J-10 fighter aircrafts originating from China were flying over Syrian airspace, their destination unknown. They were shot down; the pilot of one of the jets even lost his life. A folded letter with an address scribbled on top was found in the pocket of his suit, and it seemed to be for his daughter.

*My beautiful little Baozhai,*

*Remember the exciting adventure that I told you about? The one that you couldn't tell anyone about? Well, today is the day that I go on it.*

*I feel nervous and uncomfortable with the demands of the plan, but my superiors are saying that my country would be proud and grateful for my actions. To be honest, I don't understand the need for it – hundreds of innocents would be losing their lives. But, the officials are experienced men, and so they must know what they are talking about. I have to trust them and hope that they are right.*

*I pray that you never have to read this note, and that I can see you in person to share all my stories. But, if you're reading this, then that most likely means that we would not meet for a long, long time... You are so young, so innocent my Nǚ'ér (A mandarin term for daughter). One day, when you are ready, your mother will explain everything to you – my 'adventure', why I had to leave, along with any other questions you may have. I just want you to remember that I am always with you, and I'm watching over you from heaven. You will always, always, always have my love. I am so proud of you. Don't you ever forget that.*

*Please tell my Qīn'àì de (sweetheart) goodbye for me.*

*Bàba (A mandarin term for Father).*

The pilot represents the multitude of innocent soldiers that are forced to fight wars for officials in power, for causes that they may not even understand. Because of his mission, the man lost out on what he could've had: a simple life, spent in the company of his loved ones. The words of the father cause one to question the need for armed conflict.



# Editor's Choice:

## Letter from Vito Genovese Intercepted

*Nandika Sharma of The Washington Post intercepts a letter sent to the Genovese family*

Los hermanos de la familia Genovese!

As I write this to you from prison, know that I still have full control over the Genovese family and all its brothers. I have eyes everywhere and know what decisions are being made, and it saddens me to say that they have not been well thought out. I am disheartened to hear that one of our very own brothers has been falsely accused and killed. Descansa en paz, mi hermano. Rest in peace.

This family is the most supreme and elite crime family there is. By killing a trusted member of the family, we have made a big mistake. It is unacceptable that a mole still resides within our family. There is only one way to recover from this: capture this mole and execute him publicly. Other need to feel the fear and pain we are capable of inflicting.

What is worse is that the head of the Colombo family as well as the Lucchese family sit with us. Despite this fact, these two families continue to operate freely, without an ounce of fear. How can you let this happen?

I have only one thing to say to you now: I will be out of imprisonment in two months. If all four families are still standing firm I will make sure all of you pay for it. We need to up our game if we are going to be the largest crime family in New York.

Till then,  
Vito Genovese.

# Pre-Conference Assignments

Popularly known as ‘pre-cons’ by the stressed and depressed press, the pre-conference assignments are a press-specific concept. However, it is in these understated, highly specialized and unique assignments that a major chunk of creativity and scope for thoughtful expression remains frozen, demanding exploration.

Pre-conference assignments are a hummed tradition of rigorous, meticulous foundational work that is inspiring to witness. This is an opportunity to orchestrate the final conference on melodious notes. We hope that your icebergs are cool enough to withstand the anticipated rising temperatures, and not just due to global warming.

# **Get to Know Your Executive Board (GTKYEB)**

Profiles are highly versatile pieces. ‘Get to Know Your Executive Board’ is a profile that is categorized as a pre-conference article because while it may do so by use of style, it is not directly linked to hard news, its purpose is not to humour or to create a literal caricature through words respectively. At the core, its primary purpose is only to introduce the members of the Executive Board and the most appropriate time would be before the conference (therefore, pre-conference).

A GTKYEB aims to contain the personality of an Executive Board members and trap in pages for it to be memorialized in newsletters for years incoming. Each EB member is different. You, as journalists, need to respectfully and objectively highlight the aspects of the assigned Executive Board member that you find cardinal and immortalize their journey in words, emphasizing on but not restricted to MUN.

In order to obtain material for this article, you must engage in primary research. You must interview the EB member(s) in question, through a medium of their choice. You must also interview their friends, their teachers, and maybe even the delegates in their committee to get a good view of what they are really like. While your personal insight will be accepted in this article, speculation will not be appreciated. If you present personal observations or theories, supporting evidence will enhance it.

An AMUN classic, this article tends to cause quite the buzz not only amongst the Executive Board but the delegates too. Unsurprisingly, most Executive Board members are anticipating these highly, regardless of how ever little they express it to you. Still, that does not mean that you must write to please them. GTKYEB articles with acute, relevant observation that the readership relates to, appealing style of writing and appropriate expression are easily engrained in the minds of the readers forever.



**Word Limit: Approximately 200 to 400 words**

**Style and Structure:** Besides compulsorily writing about the person using third person pronouns, there are no restrictions on style.

To maximize the impact of this article, you may use accessible language. Minimal deviations from the rules of grammar will be accepted if made for the purposes of style (an article written entirely in ‘mocking SpongeBob capitalization’ will not).

We request you to kindly mention the position of the person that you are profiling in the by-line, not their name.

# Editor's Choice:

## Forever a Vanilla Ice Cream Fan

*Navya Khurana profiles the Chairperson of the Israeli War Cabinet*

Much like Erlich Bachman from his favourite show Silicon Valley, Vismay Awal, Chairperson of Israeli War Cabinet, perceives himself as a visionary. He is endearingly called “Javed” by his friends, who describe him as the most genuine person alive. Not only is he an outstanding person, but he is also the best friend ever, and he knows how to motivate people. He has also been described as a “massive nerd”.

Vismay’s first Model United Nations (MUN) experience was reportedly terrible – he remembers being extremely underconfident and not trusting himself enough, which led to him absolutely ruining his speeches. However, as cliché as it sounds, the experience helped him gain more confidence. He became “fearless” when it came to public speaking because he felt like he had already embarrassed himself to a point where he couldn’t go further than that.

He enjoys playing the guitar, though he claims to be very bad at it. His favourite season is fall, because of the way the colours of the environment look around this time of the year – he likes how the leaves and the trees look. Along with that, the weather is perfect – it is neither too warm nor too cold.

This Executive Board (EB) member has quite the take on ice cream flavours. He says that vanilla is best as an ice cream flavour – it has only one purpose in life, and that is to be ice cream. He strongly believes that vanilla in anything else is bad. He likes tiramisu ice cream as well, but tiramisu is a good flavour for everything. When it comes to chocolate ice cream though, Vismay strongly disapproves; he even goes to lengths to call it disgusting. “It’s an abomination to the existence of chocolate,” he says. For him, vanilla is definitely the superior flavour.

This year, Vismay is looking forward to rigorous debate and seeing how the delegates cope with the crises thrown at them, along with how creative they are.

# Editor's Choice:

## The Overactive Puppy

*Nandika Sharma profiles the Director of the Cabinet of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan*

Relentlessly optimistic. Hardworking. Multitasker. These words can be used to describe none other than Muskaan Mittal, Director of the Cabinet of the Islamic Emirate in Afghanistan. Happy-go-lucky and bubbly, Muskaan was drawn to MUN because she got a platform where she could learn how to “argue for something that is hard to argue for and argue against your own beliefs.” Not just that, but it also helped her become more aware of current affairs and important historical events.

She has been a part of the executive board for two years on an online platform. When asked what she misses most about in-person AMUN she replied by saying, “trying to convince people while standing on a desk... because I am short.”

Apart from being an avid MUNer, she enjoys singing, writing songs and poetry, “watching too much YouTube and casually stalking people on Instagram.” Few of her favourite TV shows include Never Have I Ever and Phineas and Ferb (of course.)

If she could switch lives with anyone on this planet, she would switch lives with “anyone who dates Harley Quinn. Because have you seen Harley Quinn?”

She also enjoys spending time with her friends, who find her very similar to Chidi Anagonye from The Good Place because “she is about as indecisive, but in the best way possible and is also a chronic overthinker.” Whatever one may say, her friends would love to have her “relentless optimism” and charming nature which also makes her a favourite in her committee.

She also reminds her friends of an overactive puppy, one who is hyper but eventually tires themselves out. The irony? She is absolutely terrified of dogs.

All jokes apart, Muskaan is a near-perfect member of the EB, and her committee is truly lucky to have her. Here is her advice for new MUNers: “don’t be afraid to take wild stances and pretend you are 90% more confident than you actually are.”



# Position Papers

This article is where the research for your news agency bias starts. The position paper is basically just a culmination of all of your research for your news agency. Things to research and mention in your article:

## 1. Funding

Where does the money come from? Are there industrialists who are stakeholders? Is the agency state-funded? Is there revenue from subscriptions/ads? Are they running short?

Generally, the news agency favours the interests of their funders (for obvious reasons). So if the agency is state-funded, the newspaper will favour the government and its decisions in its articles. If funding is coming from a specific individual, chances are that their political beliefs are reflected in the agency's bias.

## 2. Chief Editor

Learn them both as a professional and as an individual. Have they been part of any resistance movements? Been exiled?

What do their opinion editorials look like?

What have they tried to change or preserve about the agency after assuming editorship?

What have they been criticised for?

Learn about them so you can learn to think like them.

3. Lawsuits and controversies are your best friends. Look for drama. These criticisms are subtle pitfalls that the agency is bound to fall back on occasionally.

4. What change has your agency been instrumental in bringing about? What is its biggest achievement?

5. Readership – who reads your papers?

6. What is the relationship between the region your work will be read in and the region where the crisis is? How can you adapt the information to make it relevant? Is there anything from the past you should bring up? Is there anything you should gloss over?

Has anyone been blacklisted? Compare the articles written by your agency to those written by Reuters on the same matter.

7. If your agency has not been shut down, they should be having some form of social media. What does it look like? Who do they follow? Are there any eminent people who follow them? Why?

8. How much freedom does the country you operate in grant Press and Media?

9. Is your agency short-staffed? Why?

**Word Limit: 400-500 words**

# Editor's Choice:

## The Ebullience of the Indian Express

*Navya Khurana of the Indian Express provides insight into the paper to the readers*

Founded in 1932, The Indian Express is a newspaper under the private publishing company- Indian Express Limited. After the death of the founder Ramnath Goenka, the news agency was split amongst the family members. The Indian Express gets all its funding through advertisements. According to The Mediant, 70% of the newspaper's audience is between the ages of 18 and 34. The agency has received many awards, including the International Press Institute (IPI), the Oberoi, and The International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) award.

This news agency is fiercely proud of its mission to deliver the truth to its readers “without any fear or favour.” Nonetheless, the news agency has had its fair share of controversies; for instance, it was accused of having an editorial bias in 2017. According to OpIndia, it allegedly has a double standard whilst reporting for the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) versus the Indian National Congress (INC). In general, the writers subtly push a left-centre bias through clever writing.

The news agency was founded with the aim of creating a national newspaper- something that Mahatma Gandhi had envisioned. Ramnath Goenka, the founder of The Indian Express, had fought for the freedom of the country, after which he fought for the freedom of the press. A situation that beautifully highlights his dedication to the cause (and one that he is best remembered for) is his fight during the Emergency years in 1975. The Indian Express was the only news agency of its time that challenged the censorship imposed by Prime Minister Indira Gandhi. The government then charged a fine for the agency's defiance of the rules, to which the news agency responded by including a blank editorial on the front page of their news. This sign of protest presumably sent a message more impactful than words could have been to the government. This is just an instance that exemplifies his fight for press freedom; there are many more.

India as a whole has many newspapers, such as The Hindu, Times of India, Mint, etc., that can be considered competition for The Indian Express. In 2022, India's press freedom rank dropped to a new low of 150 out of 180 countries in the Press Freedom Index. Journalists who are critical of the government are commonly accused with various charges of defamation, sedition, contempt of court or endangering national security. Every year, three to four journalists face death at the hands of physical violence by the police, political activists, and more; there is a growing intolerance for 'anti-national' journalists in the nation.



The Standing Committee of Finance, set in the year 1990, will meet to discuss policies and actions that can be taken to tackle the nation's economic crisis. The Indian Express aspires to review and inform the public of the policies and decisions taken by the government, focusing on those that aim to reform India's economy and social structure. This news agency played a pivotal role in appraising India of the government's actions and helping form public opinion in the 1990s and hopes to continue doing so. Throughout the conference, we intend to shed light on the truth; only on the truth, and nothing but the truth.

*“Journalism with Courage”*

~ The Indian Express' motto

# Editor's Choice:

## The Essence of New York Times

*Nandika Sharma of the New York Times gives an insight into the esteemed news agency*

*“We shall be conservative, in all cases where we think conservatism essential to the public good; —and we shall be radical in everything which may seem to us to require radical treatment and radical reform. We do not believe that everything in society is either exactly right or exactly wrong; —what is good we desire to preserve and improve; —what is evil, to exterminate, or reform.”*

*- First published issue of the New York Times, 1851*

The United States of America is, without a doubt, one of the most powerful countries in the world. While it may not be the most diverse, it nonetheless attracts great minds from all over the globe. A worldwide centre of attraction has been the city of New York. It is the most populous city in the States – and for good reason. Often regarded as the global centre of culture, finance, and media, this city has a tremendous impact on technology, business, research, education, entertainment, fashion, sports as well as politics. New York, which serves as the location of the United Nations headquarters, is a significant hub for global diplomacy, a well-known sanctuary for foreign investors, and is occasionally referred to as the world's capitalcapital of the world.

For a state like New York, an ever-evolving news agency with strong morals and real journalism was essential. Journalist and politician Henry Jarvis Raymond joined forces with former banker George Jones to come up with what was initially named *New York Daily Times*. It was started as a penny paper on September 18th, 1851, with the aim of reporting without sensationalism and in a restrained and objective fashion. It happened to be an immediate success which was owed to appealing to a cultured, intellectual readership instead of a mass audience.

A high moral tone was set from the very first publication. They claim their mission to be simple: “we seek the truth and help people understand the world.” The newspaper’s influence continued to increase throughout the years owing to the continuous real journalism and their rigid value system, which includes the following: independence, integrity, curiosity, respect, collaboration, and excellence. The New York Times (or simply, the Times) gained an exceptional amount of popularity between 1870 and 1871 when it published several exposés on William Tweed, leader of the city’s Democratic Party, which led to the end of Tweed’s party’s domination over New York’s City Hall. Tweed offered the Times five million dollars (equivalent to 113 million dollars currently) to not publish the story.

Despite that, the Times went ahead with the story and proved how strictly they followed the ethics they set for themselves.

In the 1880s, the Times gradually transitioned from supporting the Republican Party candidates in its editorials to becoming more independent and analytical. Currently, the editorial pages of the Times are typically liberal in stance. They have not endorsed a Republican Party candidate since Dwight D. Eisenhower in 1956 and have endorsed the Democratic Party candidate in every presidential election since.

With an average weekday circulation of 343 thousand copies, the Times is the second most circulated newspaper in the States, following closely after Wall Street Journal. It makes the list of the top 10 most circulated newspapers globally. The Times has been flourishing under its current CEO Meredith Kopit Levien. The company continues to set high standards of world-class journalism and follows through with its motto ‘all the news that’s fit to print.’



# Press Conference

A press conference is a type of Q/A, except in this case, the delegates are being questioned by you, the journalist. Put simply, press conferences ideally make the delegates take a step back and think about their so-called progress during the MUN conference. If you're extremely good, you may even derail or ruin things for the delegates.

Questions to be asked during the press conference can either be asked to one delegate, or it can be open ended. The questions are meant to be serious. As a journalist, you are meant to question the delegates, bring out any problems you saw with the progress made by them till the press-con, and even argue with them when they stand by their fool proof (or so they think) plans.

In other words, be a delegate. Ask questions that will put a hold in committee proceedings, questions that will shake the confidence of the delegates, and questions that may even threaten the very fabric holding the committee itself.

There are rules to conducting a press-con, like always. It is a formal event, so your conduct must be proper (no foul language or gestures). Questions must be polite, and must be relevant to the committee proceedings (please do not ask the delegate of Pakistan if he enjoyed his samosa the day before). Questions can be asked on statements made by the delegates; however, questions cannot be asked on statements made by the delegates in unmoderated caucuses.

# Photography



# Introduction

Photography is an experience where you can capture your creativity through a lens. It's about capturing that moment and telling a story through a single frame.

Photojournalism is the medium that has not only informed people worldwide about their fellow human beings, but also made them realize on what truth lies out there, that is our goal at the UNCA too.

Here at Aravali MUN's UNCA – photography we will extract the best out of you and make you strive to the fullest. We will be judging you on your composition, adherence to theme (if any), skill, creativity, punctuality, and overall appearance of your photographs.



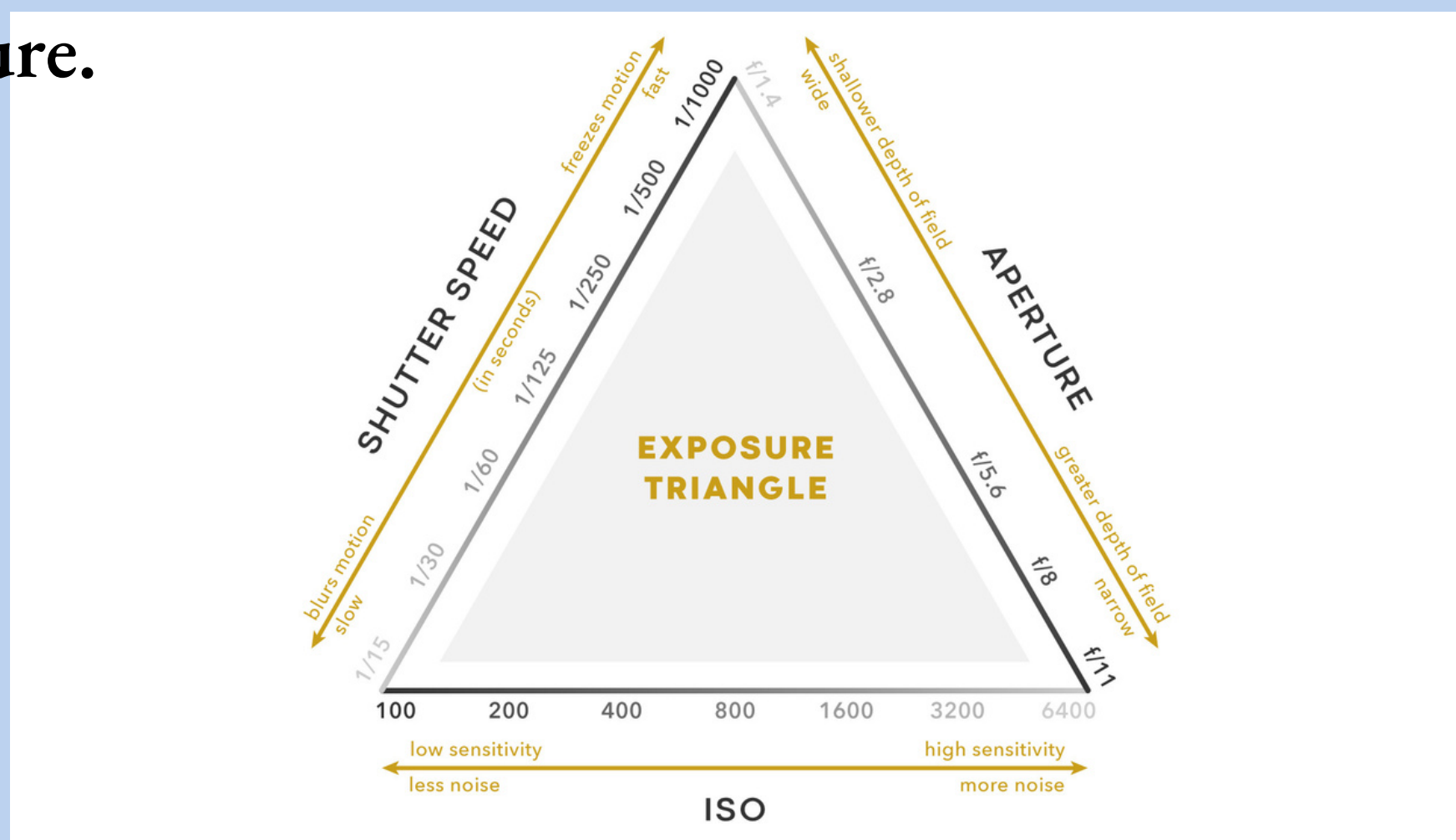
# Technical Guide

The photography basics are fundamental for anyone who is beginning to work in photography.

Regardless of your interests, gear, or goals, having a solid foundation of the main concepts of photography is key to capturing better images and improving your photography.

## Exposure:

In photography, the exposure triangle explains the relationship between shutter speed, ISO and aperture. Whether you're shooting old school film or with a mirrorless, these three factors are at the centre of every exposure.



Understanding the exposure triangle, also called the photographic triangle, will help you determine how a picture will look before you take it and while saving film in today's digitally dominated world is probably not your first priority, knowing how aperture, shutter speed, and ISO work together to compose your image will make you a smarter, more efficient photographer.

With getting to know these variables, you'll also come to realize that, at least artistically, there is no one 'correct' exposure for a scene.

Let's take a quick look at each of the three values in the exposure triangle:

### Aperture

Like the iris of your eye, the aperture blades on the lens of a camera control how much light is let into the camera lens. The amount of light that reaches your camera's image sensor will determine what the exposure looks like. It determines the depth of field of the photo.

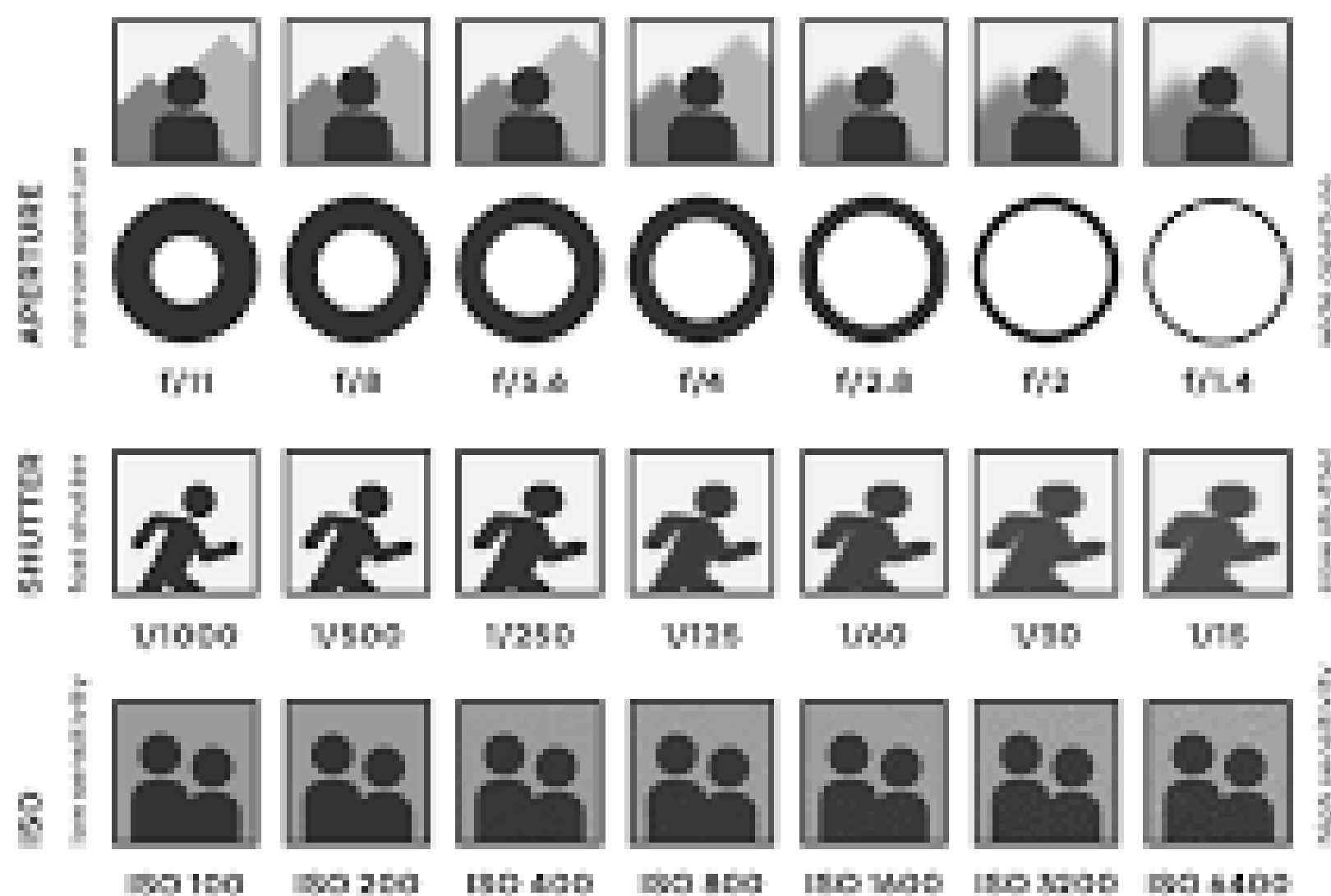
Each aperture setting on the lens is referred to as an f-stop, a fraction that indicates the diameter of the lens opening. Aperture also determines the depth of field and sharpness. Every lens has a "sweet spot" or "critical focus," usually between  $f/4$  and  $f/11$ .

While aperture determines how wide the lens opening is, shutter speed determines how long the lens stays open for, letting the specific amount of volume of light into the sensor determined by the aperture. A faster shutter speed, like 1/1000th of a second, has the effect of freezing motion, while a slower shutter speed, like 1/60th, will blur motion in a scene.

## ISO

When increasing the ISO, it allows you to work with less light, however if the ISO is increased often times there will be more noise and less detail within your video. In other words, when increasing your ISO it will bring light into dark images, but as a result can diminish the quality of the shot. At lower ISOs the degree of your camera's signal is significantly large when compared to the noise, this means that the noise generally remains inconspicuous.

When shooting on your device, it is best to keep your ISO low in order to avoid noise; however, your determined ISO level is ultimately dependent upon the surrounding environment and lighting conditions. For example, if you are shooting in a low-light setting you will need a higher ISO to properly expose the photo and brighten up the film. On the other hand, when you are in a very bright setting and trying to capture footage, a lower ISO would be appropriate in order to avoid noise.





## Composition:

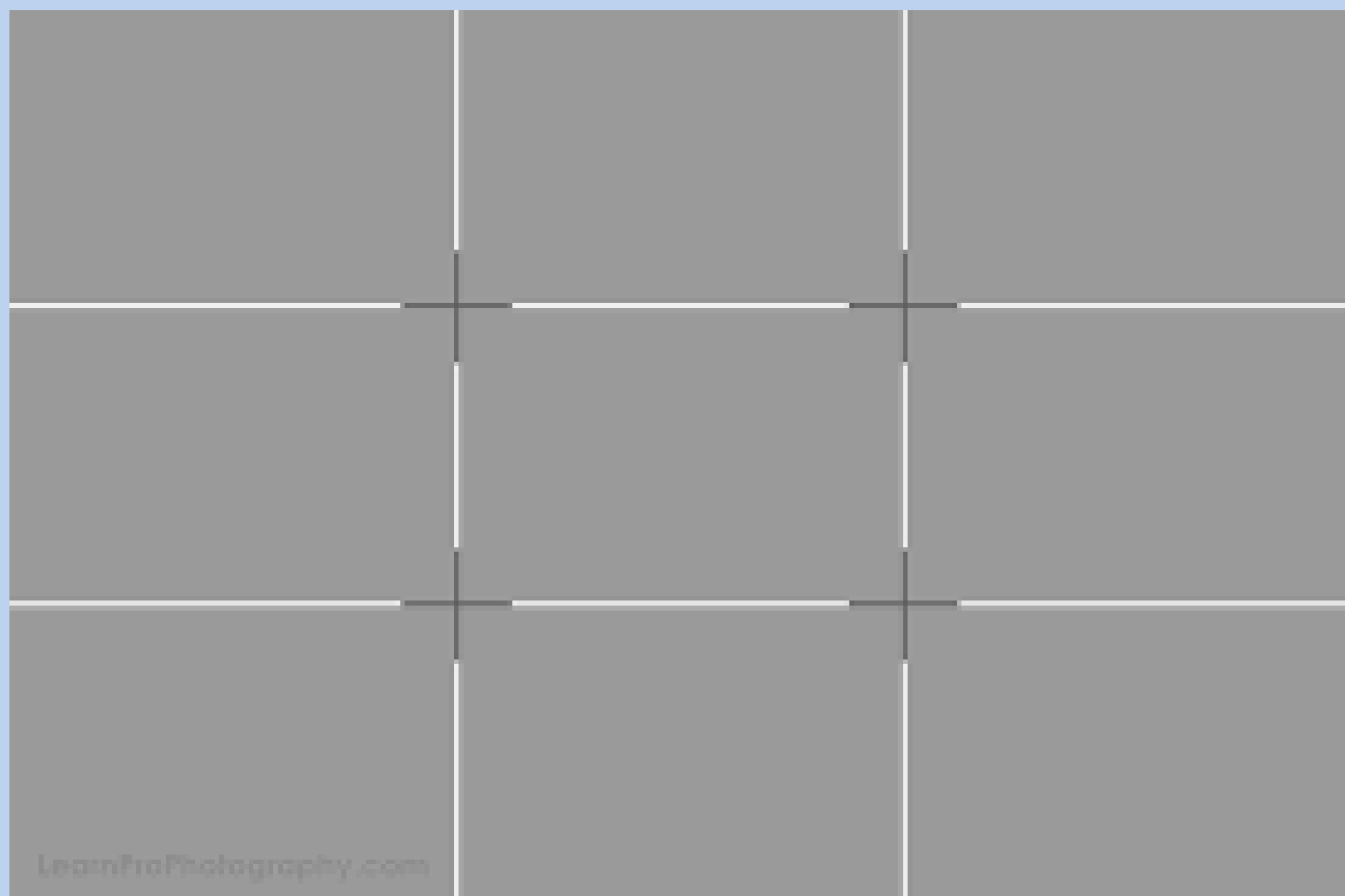
Composition is the arrangement of all the elements that make up the scene in a photograph. Here are some rules to help you frame your photos, but always remember - while there are guidelines, there are no hard and fast rules.

### 1. Simplify the scene

Declutter the background to draw attention to your subject.

### 2. Rule of thirds

Instead of placing your subject centre-frame, split the frame into thirds. Imagine a noughts and crosses board of two horizontal lines and two vertical lines. Position your subject on these lines, or where they intersect.



### 3. Fill the frame

Too much 'negative' or unused space might not work for your photo. You could get closer to your subject on these lines, or zoom in to fill the frame.

### 4. Diagonal lines

Diagonal lines bring dynamism and energy to your composition, providing a sense of depth when they converge, or crossover other lines.

### 5. High or low

Experiment with a bird's eye view (getting above the subject) or a worm's eye view (getting below) to create a compelling perspective.

### 6. Patterns

The idea of repeating something can seem boring. But the human brain actually likes patterns. They are great focal points for viewers.

Patterns in photography create attention. Think of something easy to overlook. When framed to highlight the pattern, it becomes intriguing. Recognizing patterns is a composition technique that creates a stronger image. Shapes and lines are composition techniques as well.

Patterns take them to a new level by repeating those shapes and lines. They can also give way to texture. This is when tiny repeating patterns create a familiar, touchable surface.

### 7. Leading lines

As our eyes are led subconsciously along lines in images, thinking about how, where, and why you place lines in your photos will alter how your audience perceives it. A road, for example, that starts at one end of the shot and winds its way to the other will draw the viewer's attention through the scene.

# Tasks

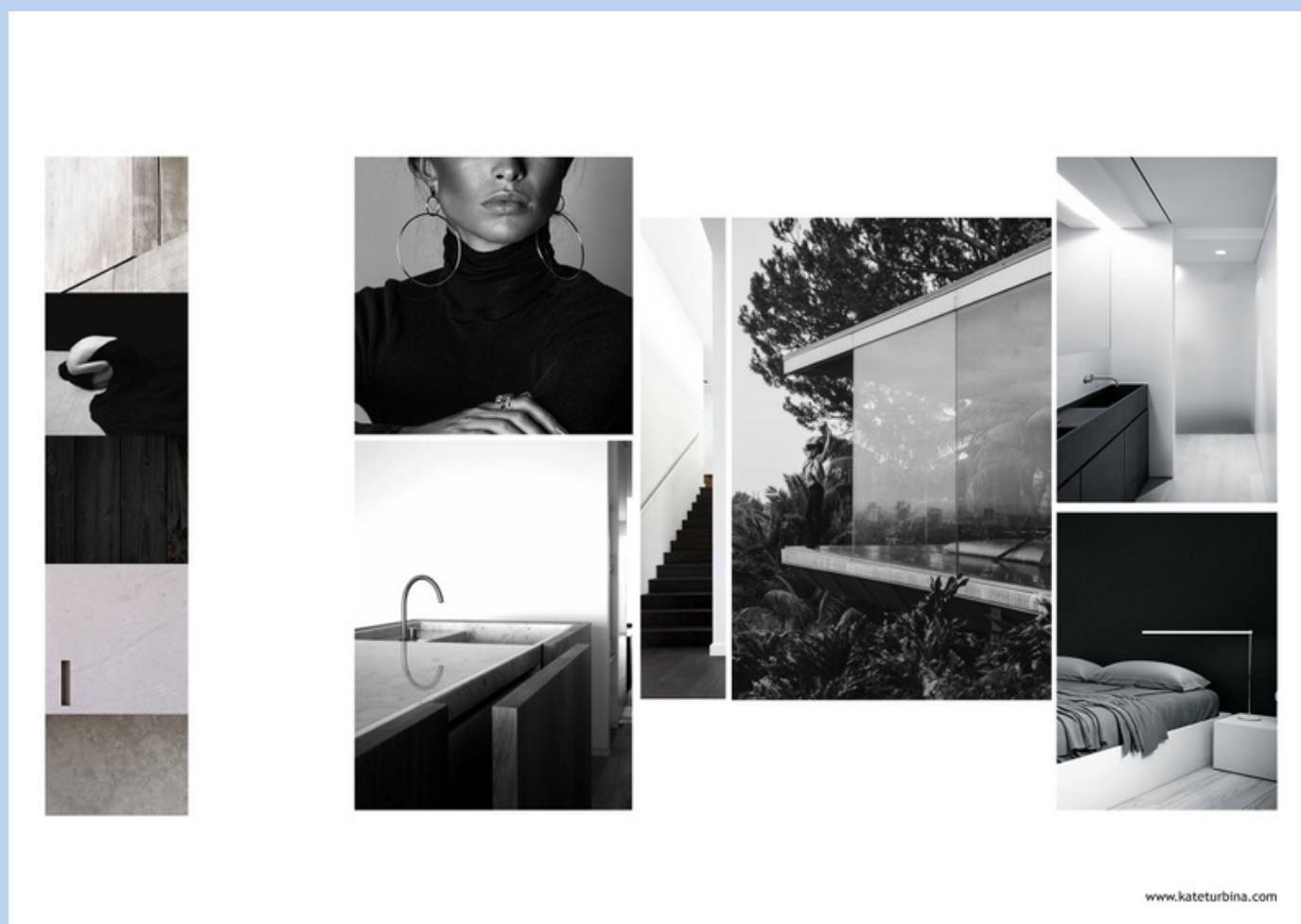
For every session of committee, you will receive a task. This is an overview of the kind of tasks you will be getting.

## 1. CRISIS

A crisis task is the most crucial and stressful part of the conference. You will be given an extremely short amount of time to complete a task you would have never imagined doing. It is high pressure and you must learn how to be calm and act with perfection. It may require you to collaborate with other members of the United Nations Correspondents Association.

## 2. BACKGROUND TASK/VIDEO

This background task is a short video that you will be making. The theme will be given to you on the 1st day of the conference and you will be working on it in the time period between the last session of the first day and the first session of the last day. The video should be 60-120 seconds (excluding credits). You mustn't use MODBOARD from the internet; however, you can use music/dj/cover is essentially a photocollage of 4-7 photos revolving around a particular theme. There should be an aesthetic appeal to the composition. You may use logos from the internet. You may include text.





## 4. PORTRAITS

There are more types of portraits than the traditional ones you see. There are metaphorical portraits, environmental portraits, fine art portraits, and many more.

**i. Traditional Portrait:** This classic style of portraiture involves the subject looking directly at the camera and is often taken against a simple studio setting. These photos are usually focused on the head and shoulders of the subject rather than the whole body.

**ii. Environmental Portraits:** An environmental portrait is a portrait executed in the subject's usual environment, such as in their home or workplace, and typically illuminates the subject's life and surroundings. The term is most frequently used of a genre of photography. By photographing a person in their natural surroundings, it is thought that you will be able to better illuminate their character, and therefore portray the essence of their personality, rather than merely a likeness of their physical features. It is also thought that by photographing a person in their natural surroundings, the subject will be more at ease, and so be more conducive to expressing themselves, as opposed to in a studio, which can be a rather intimidating and artificial experience.



## 5. SOCIAL MEDIA POSTS

Being the youth of this generation, we spend a hefty percentage of our time on social media. We are constantly exposed to perfectly crafted posts that are designed to get our attention. These posts can be used to gain a following, to market a product or service, or to update followers.

While making a social media post, there are specific dimensions to be followed. For example, Instagram posts are 1:1, 1.91:1, or 4:5. They should have attractive graphics and memorable captions. Make use of canva for editing.



# How to Prepare

- Ensure that you have an editing software on your laptop/. Familiarise yourself with it and solve any bugs or glitches that may be present. Try to not use your phone for editing as the quality of the photo gets compromised. Most windows devices have an inbuilt basic software.
- Here are some free editing softwares that you can use  
Photo editing: Polarr, Adobe Photoshop Express, Snapseed, Lightroom  
Video editing: Lightworks, Davinci Resolve, iMovie
- Test your equipment and software prior to the conference to ensure that everything is working smoothly.
- Keep a spare memory device (SD card, pen drive, hard drive) on hand in case you run out of storage. Also clear out the SD card that you'll be shooting on.
- You can use a tripod if you have one.
- Ensure that you label your equipment.
- Brief yourself on the agenda of the committee you have been assigned.



# Rules of Conduct

- Ensure timely submissions. Every 5 minutes of delay will lead to negative marking of 10%
- The specified nomenclature must be followed. There will be negative marking of 10% for each photo with the wrong name.
- All photos must be submitted as JPG files, all videos must be submitted as MP4 files uploaded to a Google drive, all write ups must be submitted as PDF files. Submissions in any other format will not be considered.
- Submissions must be made via UNCA Photography MS Teams.
- Plagiarism of any kind is unacceptable. Strong measures will be taken if this is found.
- Only photos clicked during the conference can be submitted.
- No photos can be clicked from phones (unless specified)
- At all times photographers must either be in a UNCA meeting or a committee meeting.
- All photographers shall maintain decorum during committee. While taking pictures, they should not come in the way of the delegates speaking.
- No photographer can approach the dais table to click pictures.

# Caricature



# 1. Introduction

Visual Journalism, or caricature, is powerful- it can make or break decisions, change the world's views or bring about revolutions. Being a caricaturist is exhilarating when you realise the power you have in the real world. When millions of people across the world open the newspaper, they are immediately drawn to the colourful, bold caricature in the centre of the page. The political satire and humour of it can get thousands of messages across- through only one panel of a comic.

Your goal is to capture this magic of caricature in the committees the AMUN has simulated. The first step is to research- gain knowledge on the topic and form your opinion.

Next, express this opinion in the boldest, strongest way possible. Use colours, text, shapes, and symbols to get your message across. Be creative, smart, and daring- and remember- you have the power to change the world.



## **2. What is a caricature?**

A caricature is putting the face of a joke on the body of a truth. It is a picture, description, or imitation of a person in which certain striking characteristics are exaggerated in order to create a comic or grotesque effect. The main aim of a caricaturist is to make the images showing the features of the subject in a simplified or exaggerated way through sketching, pencil strokes or through other artistic drawings. Caricatures can be complementary or insulting and can serve different purposes such as gentle mockery of political persons, for their serious socio-political actions or for entertainment.

## **3. How to go about a task?**

- The most important thing is to think of an idea.
- Observe the committee proceedings
- Jot down certain phrases or remarks made by delegates
- Link the discussion with the agenda assigned to you
- Make a rough sketch
- Proceed with the outcome

# 4. Important Points

Acquaint yourself with the agenda

Read articles, timelines and other material to have a good understanding of the agenda. This is crucial to understand committee proceedings and portray them effectively.

Since a caricature involves the exaggeration of certain striking characteristics in a person, it is advisable to search up images of the personalities related to the agenda and assess which trait to portray or show more.

Think of punchlines or slogans to incorporate in your pieces.

Understand both sides of the agenda. Think of valid solutions or propositions you could make. Make sure that these are realistic and feasible as well as easy to depict.

Each submission will have a deadline of approximately 1-1.5 hours. Failure to submit on time would affect your marking.