INTERNATIONAL PRESS GALLERY

IPG

Hwa Chong Model ASEAN Summit 2024

Table of Contents

Welcome Letter

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to the International Press Gallery (IPG) of the Hwa Chong Model ASEAN Summit (HCMAS) 2024! The Dais would like to extend their warm welcome to all delegates participating in this conference as part of the IPG.

The press, commonly referred to as the media, plays a quintessential role in modern society. It functions as a watchdog for the government and other influential institutions, delivering independent and impartial reporting on current events and issues. This promotes transparency and accountability, safeguarding the public from misconduct such as corruption. Thus, to realise the above goals, the Dais hopes delegates will influence and shape community debates by offering valuable insights, accomplished through succinct and relevant articles that reflect ongoing developments in communities. Equally important is the media's role as a source of information, serving to educate and inform the public about the world around them. By virtue of being a preparatory conference, HCMAS hopes to help delegates gain a nuanced view of the world, rousing future leaders to work towards a peaceful and just ASEAN community. In the 21st Century's interconnected but turbulent landscape, greater friction between nations with opposing ideals has led to increasing tensions. Diplomacy becomes crucial, without which such tensions can spiral into conflicts. Diplomacy provides an avenue for world leaders to sit down and discuss methods to resolve arising issues together, creating bonds and boosting collaborations along the way.

The Dais wishes that delegates will cultivate a profound appreciation and understanding of diplomacy and Model ASEAN Summits (MAS) through the proceedings of HCMAS by viewing such bodies through the lens of a third party – the press. Should delegates have any inquiries before or throughout the conference, delegates can feel free to contact the Dais at the community email ipg.hcmas2024@gmail.com. On this note, the Dais wish delegates the best of luck preparing for this conference and look forward to meeting delegates.

Warmest Regards,

Lee Rui Yi, Yee Min En, Li Ruizhe

Dais of the HCMAS 2024 IPG

Dais Introduction

<u>Lee Rui Yi</u>

Rui Yi is a Year 4 student from Hwa Chong Institution. Despite not being particularly good in Science or Math, he is studying in the Science and Math Talent Programme. Being in SMTP means he is not only always busy but also has a messed up sleep schedule (he can wake up at 4 without alarms). In his limited free time, he would listen to music and watch Netflix apart from catching up on lost sleep. He wishes for delegates in IPG to not only aim for awards but to also have fun in the process and learn something new from this conference.

<u>Yee Min En</u>

Min En is a year 3 student from Hwa Chong Institution. Despite being quoted, ad verbatim, "my chinese no good", he is a student of the Bicultural Studies Programme. When he is not hastily printing scores to remain the Hwa Chong Choir's Welfare head, he can be seen needlessly philosophising over the realities of modern society. Min En is also an avid debater, able to yap his way out of most situations, obtaining the best delegate through "spamming position papers and running my mouth" (verbatim). Min En hopes that IPG delegates can uphold the historic role of harassing information out of other councils and plunging these other councils into circular debate, as well as being the absolute memelords of HCMAS.

Li Ruizhe

Ruizhe is a Year 3 student from Hwa Chong Institution. Unlike his fellow chairs, he takes both the Science and Math Talent Programme (SMTP) and the Bicultural Studies Programme (BSP), otherwise known as the SMTP-BSP Dual Track Programme. With Biology as his additional subject, he desperately attempts to reclaim his humorously limited sleep time. Apart from this peculiar choice of subjects, Ruizhe's CCA is the String Orchestra, and he is an avid fan of Beethoven. Despite being the chair of Press, he has never, in his life, attempted a bench press while lying on a chair. Nonetheless, he hopes delegates will keep the spirit of journalism in their hearts, forge new friendships, and also enjoy the complimentary buffet provided during tea.

Introduction to the IPG

Throughout history, the press has exerted major influence on global development. As framed accurately by famed military commander Napoleon Bonaparte, "four hostile newspapers are more to be feared than a thousand bayonets."[1] The media, or the lack thereof, can single-handedly change the course of the world's development. Long preceding the advent of the radio, television, and broadcasts, one of the earliest forms of media was the press. Fueling the Renaissance in the late 15th century; advancing the Scientific Revolution in the 16th to 17th century; empowering the Europeans to push for social change during the period of Enlightenment in the 19th century; functioning as the fifth estate to serve as a vital check and balance against governmental authority in the 21st century. Truly, the press has more than adequately shown its influence on societies' progress no matter the era. The establishment of the media as an authoritative critique has created a dimension that has changed history.

Sadly, this is not always reflected in ASEAN. While the principles of press freedom and freedom of expression have been affirmed by the ASEAN Human Rights Declaration[2], in reality however, freedom of press remains a key area of concern. In many parts of ASEAN, the press is a highly controlled and dangerous sector to work in: journalists are jailed, kidnapped and harassed, prompting many to flee their home countries.

Nonetheless, in spite of this worrisome climate of journalism suppression, IPG hopes to provide delegates with the opportunity to analyse the issues at hand through different lenses, and to observe their respective communities and report on the ongoing events. When reporting, IPG delegates are expected to understand and synthesise the slight nuances in their stances and portfolios, though it is dependent on the agency they are representing. Delegates would be able to express their independent opinions, challenge delegates and attempt to move community debate forward even if they are not a delegate representing a nation.

More importantly, IPG delegates should familiarise themselves with the HCMAS 2024 Rules of Procedure (ROP) and Special Rules of Procedures (SRoP) to ensure that they have an idea

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[1] BrainyQuote.com. "Napoleon Bonaparte Quotes." BrainyQuote.com. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.brainyquote.com/quotes/napoleon_bonaparte_101124

[2] Asean. ASEAN Human Rights Declaration. Asean Web. QAccessed February 21, 2024, https://asean.org/asean-human-rights-declaration/

of what is to come during council sessions. This would also prevent any confusion when delegates use procedural terms.

The Press in Real Life

<u>Serves as a Watchdog for the Government</u>

The press has been commonly coined the "fourth estate" of the government and acts as the final auditor for the government. This is perhaps a wordplay on the phrase "the three-estate system", a French Old Regime system It was a three-level hierarchy comprising the clergy (the First Estate), the nobles (Second Estate), and the peasants and bourgeoisie (Third Estate). The term "the fourth estate" was first mentioned by Edmund Burke, who reportedly said that "there were three Estates … but in the Reporters gallery yonder, there sat a fourth Estate more important far than they all."[3] This can be attributed to the basic principle of journalism, or journalistic truth. Journalistic truth is a process that begins with the professional discipline of assembling and verifying facts[4]. This could include uncovering the hidden secrets of the government or politicians and finding the true rationale behind certain policies.

In a democratic society, the press, ideally, operates as an independent check on the other branches of government, typically, but not limited to: the executive, legislative, and judicial branches.[5] In many cases, the press plays the quintessential and irreplaceable role of a detective when it engages in fairly long-term, detailed, in-depth investigative journalism — the kind that can expose large-scale systematic wrongdoing by public (or private) officials, which may include nepotism, corruption, fraud or other kinds of criminality, to the public. These exposés often rely on more than one journalist and require the backing of the media publication or outlet as a whole to provide the necessary resources for the investigative exercise.

An example of the supposed influential role the media can play would be the 1972 Watergate scandal, a major political debacle involving the 37th President of the United States, Richard Nixon. The controversy stemmed from Nixon's attempts to cover up the break-in of the Democratic National Committee (DNC) headquarters in Washington, D.C., situated in the

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[3] Tran, D. "The Fourth Estate As The Final Check." Yale Law School, November 22, 2016. Accessed January 4, 2024. https://law.yale.edu/mfia/case-disclosed/fourth-estate-final-check

[4] American Press Association. "Principles of Journalism." American Press Association. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://americanpressassociation.com/principles-of-journalism/

[5] Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. Media Law Handbook for Southern Africa – Volume 1. Konrad Adenauer Stiftung. Accessed February 9, 2023. https://www.kas.de/documents/285576/11521648/MLHSA+2021+-+1+The+role+of+the+media.pdf/f54a092e-1f2d-543d-291a-9603556b3773?t=1612258525961

Watergate Office Building. The case began on June 17, 1972, when several burglars were arrested in the office of the DNC[6]. They were apprehended while wiretapping phones and pilfering documents, which raised suspicions when there were revelations that these burglars had connections to the reelection campaign of Nixon. Nonetheless, Nixon denies involvement, and his popularity and the overall decline in media trustworthiness in the 1970s led to the majority of voters believing his claims. The incident was soon overlooked.

However, it was several months later that the media, notably through investigative coverage by The Washington Post, played a pivotal role in unveiling the link between the burglars and the Committee for the Re-Election of the President, headed by Nixon's former attorney general, John Mitchell.[7] Journalists Carl Bernstein and Bob Woodward from The Washington Post, through discreet investigative work, and by relying heavily upon anonymous sources, unearthed information suggesting Nixon's knowledge of the break-in. The revelations sent ripples through the upper echelons of the Justice Department, the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI), the CIA, and the White House. Evidence of the destruction of records in an attempt to cover up the break-in under Nixon's orders were soon exposed by the Post, prompting public outcry and outroar within the House of Representatives.[8] The indictments of over forty administration officials under the Nixon administration and the eventual resignation of Nixon followed.

Thus, this case study shows how the media, at the forefront of identifying informants, was critical in pushing the investigation into the Watergate scandal.[9] This objectivity on the part of the media effort significantly heightened public awareness of the administration's wrongdoings, increased the publicity of the scandal and precipitated substantial political and legal upheaval.

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[6] History.com Editors. "Watergate Scandal." HISTORY. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.history.com/topics/1970s/watergate

[7] The Washington Post. "The Watergate Story | The Post Investigates – Timeline." The Washington Post. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/timeline.html

[8] The Washington Post. "The Watergate Story | The Post Investigates." The Washington Post. 1972. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.washingtonpost.com/wp-srv/politics/special/watergate/part1.html

[9] Garvin, G. "The Profound Lies of Deep Throat." The Press Herald, February 19, 2012. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.pressherald.com/2012/02/19/the-profound-lies-of-deep-throat_2012-02-19/

<u>Serves as a Platform to Raise Awareness of Social Causes and to Push for Social Change</u>

The press is also considered the "custodian of information" and plays a critical role in creating awareness, informing and educating the public on various issues. Furthermore, with the advent of the internet, press agencies have been moving online, allowing citizens to easily read up on the latest news and developments online using their digital devices regardless of the day and time.

For example, starting from the middle of December 2021, Malaysia experienced floods of up to 380 millilitres of rainfall, affecting eight states and causing over 50 casualties. In such natural crises, Malaysia relies heavily on non-governmental organisations (NGOs) to help provide additional relief funds as other stakeholders hesitate to do so[10]. The press holds a key role in spreading awareness for these NGOs, such as disseminating information about charitable organisations for public donations in an attempt to assist victims. Singapore-based news agency *Channel News Asia (CNA)* published an article titled "Singapore contributes US$60,000 for flood and typhoon relief efforts in Malaysia, Philippines"[11], exemplifying how the press helps to inform the public of real-time contributions that transpired, encouraging collective action. This underscores the press' ability to rally and unite people by keeping them informed and educated about current affairs and global events, fostering increased engagement in larger societal causes.

Similarly, the media is also accredited as a platform which pushes for social changes, and one where the people's voices are amplified and heard.

One case study would be the Times Of India's coverage of religious oppression in the Bareilly region of India where mosques were destroyed and replaced with temples. Resultant protests

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[10] International Water Resources Association. "Challenges in Flood Relief Management in Malaysia." International Water Resources Association. Accessed January 9, 2022. https://www.iwra.org/member/congress/resource/3060518.pdf

[11] Ganesan, N. "Singapore contributes US$60,000 for flood relief efforts in Malaysia, Philippines." Channel News Asia, December 22, 2021. Accessed January 9, 2022. https://www.channelnewsasia.com/singapore/typhoon-rai-singapore-red-cross-contribute-donation-malaysia-floods-philippines-2395251

by local clerics and youth were suppressed and protesters detained by law enforcement.[12] In this scenario, journalism and journalists play a pivotal role in overturning this wave, ensuring that the voices and the plight of the oppressed and the disadvantaged would be heard. They shed light on the struggles of the marginalised communities, providing them a platform to articulate their desires and prompting authorities to address their needs.[13] This is shown by the Times Of India by its spreading of messages of local cleric Taqueer Raza and his movement of Jail Bharo Aandolan as a form of peaceful protest. Thus, media agencies should be devoid of any political interference, and potential conflicts of interests, since it is tasked with the responsibility of keeping the government transparent and serving as the "eyes" of the people.

These examples prove and underscore how the media can act as a "loudspeaker" and amplify awareness on pertinent issues such as natural disasters and social issues. However, its efficiency in raising awareness and educating the public has also led to its misuse as a platform to spread propaganda, to achieve the vested interests of belligerent leaders, or to indoctrinate ideological beliefs. As such, the power of the press to influence the masses has to be used with great caution to prevent such misuse.

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[12] Kanwardeep Singh / TNN / Updated: Feb 8, 2024. "Aala Hazrat Cleric Calls for 'jail Bharo' Movement in Bareilly Tomorrow: Bareilly News - Times of India." The Times of India. Accessed February 21, 2024. https://timesofindia.indiatimes.com/city/bareilly/aala-hazrat-cleric-calls-for-jail-bharo-movement-in-bareilly-tomorrow/articleshow/107509658.cms

[13] Kwabi, F., Ezeani, E., Owusu, A., Wonu, C., & Wansu, H. "The impact of the media on tourism development and income inequality." Journal on Sustainable Tourism, January 20, 2023. Accessed January 2, 2024. https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/09669582.2023.2166516

The Media from an Epistemological Viewpoint, and the Issue of Factual Accountability

Epistemology refers to a theory of knowledge that analyses the conditions required for opinion to constitute a justified belief. The media often fails to provide sufficient evidence to back up their articles in what is known as the lack of factual accountability, or "misinformation".

In the world of journalism, despite factual reporting, accountability, and journalistic integrity being at the core of reporting, the Press is not a neutral arbiter of current affairs. Instead, journalists' and news producers' biases and leanings are reflected in their reporting and coverage of news. Further limitations on the neutrality of media are imposed by the ownership of media outlets, the subjective selection of staff, and the perceived preferences and views of the intended audience. For instance, editorial boards at major news outlets such as the New York Times often issue opinion pieces on political events that are left-leaning and even endorse political candidates, illustrating the lack of neutrality at the higher levels of media outlets.[14] Politics and media bias are thus mutually non-exclusive, and media and politics often influence each other.[15]

Furthermore, biassed media outlets have politicised and polarised society.[16] Polarisation is defined as the increasing warmth/liking toward one's political in-group versus growing coldness/dislike toward the political out-group. The presence of polarisation can be attributed to the media's selective presentation of facts, details, and information, which tends to confirm preexisting beliefs of their readership base. Selective exposure to pro-attitudinal media content consistently drives polarisation, outlined by philosopher C. Thi Nguyen's epistemological study of what is otherwise known as the echo chambers theory. An echo chamber, as defined by Nguyen, is "a social epistemic structure in which other relevant voices

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[14] New York Times. (n.d.). Endorsements. New York Times Web. Assessed February 21, 2024, from https://www.nytimes.com/topic/subject/endorsements

[15] Journal of Communication. (March, 2007). Framing Bias: Media in the Distribution of Power. Assessed February 21, 2024 https://academic.oup.com/joc/article-abstract/57/1/163/4102665?redirectedFrom=fulltext&login=false

[16] Kumin, E., Sikorski, C. V. (Sept 21, 2021). The role of (social) media in political polarisation: a systematic review. Taylor and Francis Online. Assessed February 2, 2024, https://www.tandfonline.com/doi/full/10.1080/23808985.2021.1976070

have been actively discredited."[17] Media sources often exist as an echo chamber actively influencing society by constantly bombarding their readers with language that "exposes" other media sources as manipulative and fake, and provide individuals with viewpoints that mirror their own. A result of the inherent inclinations of the media, this leads to a lack of exposure to diverse opinions and perspectives, further entrenching polarised attitudes and making it difficult for individuals to understand alternative viewpoints.[18]

In the world of academia, this "selective presentation of facts" often comes in the form of the colloquially known "fake news", or the altering of information to fit the ideological views and underlying motives of media agencies. Truly, echo chambers and fake news go hand-in-hand in that news agencies often spread conspiracy theories and other fake media forms, through the echo chamber theory, to reach a higher viewership status.

Nonetheless, other media platforms, such as those of social media, have attempted to institute a system to combat this spread of misinformation. For one, Meta has installed a fact checking system for its platforms (Facebook, Instagram, and WhatsApp) through a partnership with "independent third-party fact-checkers that are certified through the non-partisan International Fact-Checking Network (IFCN)." The three step process - "Identify" (monitoring for keywords and hoaxes/misinformation), "Review" (gauge accuracy of sources through research), and "Act" (warning re-posters of the misinformation and reducing distribution) - is just one component of Meta's larger "problematic content" monitoring policy. Research by Dartmouth College Professor Brendan Nyhan has found that labelling a Facebook post as "disputed" reduces the percentage of readers believing the false news by 10 percentage points.[19]

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[17] Nguyen, C. (September 13, 2018). ECHO CHAMBERS AND EPISTEMIC BUBBLES. Assessed Feruary 21, 2024,
https://www.cambridge.org/core/journals/episteme/article/abs/echo-chambers-and-epistemic-bubbles/5D4AC3A808C538E17C50A7C09EC706F0

[18] Capante, F., Hojman, D. (July 21, 2012). Evidence from the introduction of broadcast TV in the United States. Journal of Public Economics. Assessed February 21, 2024,
https://scholar.harvard.edu/files/campante/files/campantehojman.pdf
[19] West, M.D. "How to combat fake news and disinformation." Brookings, December 18, 2017. Accessed January 30, 2024.
https://www.brookings.edu/articles/how-to-combat-fake-news-and-disinformation/

TikTok has adopted a similar approach, particularly with respect to Covid-19 related posts, that includes "fact-checking partners," "trained teams working to identify and remove false or misleading content," and a ban on "paid advertising that advocates against vaccinations." Twitter has gone so far as to suspend the accounts of those who continually violate its Covid-19 misinformation policies. As reported by the New York Times, Marjorie Taylor Greene, Republican Representative of Georgia, was recently banned from the site after accumulating five "strikes" earned from spreading misinformation about Covid.[20]

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[20] Alba, D. (Jan 2, 2022). Twitter Permanently Suspends Marjorie Taylor Greene's Account. Assessed 21 February, 2024,
https://www.nytimes.com/2022/01/02/technology/marjorie-taylor-greene-twitter.html

IPG Mechanics and Formats

Throughout the conference, IPG delegates will have the opportunity to put themselves in the shoes of a journalist, where they will wield political influence and assert their stances through the array of specially curated press mechanics.

Delegates should refer to the Specialised Rules of Procedure (SRoP) for more details.

<u>Mandatory Articles</u>

For each day of the conference, it will be mandatory for the IPG delegates to submit an article by a stipulated deadline set by the Dais. Should delegates have the time and means to do so, the Dais would highly encourage delegates to submit more than one article a day. Articles act as a key performance indicator for Press delegates and as a means of directing council delegates towards more productive debate. Thus, it is expected that such articles will be of high-quality, acting as an apt reflection of the nuances of delegates' stances. It is expected that the article contains use of formal language, no offensive or discriminatory language,

Delegates can refer to the SRoP for more details as to the types of articles delegates can submit.

Press Conferences

Press Conferences form a key component of real-time journalism, whereby delegates are provided a valuable opportunity to interact, interrogate, scrutinise, and grill council delegates on council issues, thus ensuring more productive and rigorous debate, and that these delegates are held accountable for their actions and decisions. These sessions also serve as a platform for the press to amplify the voices of the people, and to direct council debate towards a direction that adequately addresses the needs of the greater citizenry.

During press conferences, delegates are strongly advised to raise questions, to:

- Offer ideas and suggestions consistent with their news organisation's position, thus influencing the course of community debate.
- Gather more information concerning community debate (eg. delegates' positions and opinions on a particular issue of contention, as well as the rationale for rejecting a specific resolution).
- Have a greater understanding of the different viewpoints and opinions behind a certain issue.
- Seek clarification on any doubts press delegates might have.

Moreover, during press conferences, IPG delegates should aim towards influencing community discussions by increasing the productivity of a community and the quality of debate through the following methods but not limited to:

- Identifying inconsistencies and contradictions in council delegates' stance, and to fact-check them where appropriate.
- Raising pre-planned questions aimed at challenging certain delegates and their stances.
- Examining delegates' concerns and proposed solutions for relevance.
- Providing concealed opinions in line with the news agency's stance.
- Call on soft-spoken council delegates to present their opinion.

<u>Interviews</u>

Interviews are a scaled-down version of a press conference that is more direct and tailored to the individual delegates. IPG Delegates can also utilise it as a platform to ask questions, clarify any doubts they may have, express their own ideas, and make suggestions; or even lobby (eg. obtaining insider information in return for positive reporting). Interviews can only be conducted during Unmoderated Dialogues or breaks unless permitted by the respective community Dais. The respective community Dais will call upon delegates to participate in the interview for IPG delegates.

<u>Other Media Forms</u>

Political Cartoons

Memes have been an increasingly common sight in inciting laughter amongst those browsing social media or for social media influencers to boost their popularity. The power of this new form of media can also be utilised by the press. Cartoons, drawings or comic strips have been published by news agencies in the past, such as *The Straits Times*, to bring across various points on pertinent topics. They can raise awareness for societal issues, act as the people's voice, or lighten up the mood in serious circumstances.

Publication of Media

After each day, certain outstanding reports, short articles and memes will be chosen by the IPG Dais to be published on the official HCMAS IPG Instagram account and/or HCMAS IPG Blog account. Such reports and articles would be published exclusively and solely on the aforementioned platforms.

Journalistic Writing Guidelines

This section contains tips and guidelines that delegates should keep in mind when carrying out their journalistic duties.

<u>Editorial Stance</u>

Editorial stance refers to the primary attitude which a news agency takes, in order to uphold its agenda towards the greater community. It is often reflected in the agency's text coverage of the issue at hand as it attempts to sway the public opinion surrounding an issue. When crafting various media, delegates should keep in mind that they are representing a particular news agency and hence, have to represent the agency's interests and agenda. These interests manifest in the form of bias in reporting so as to shape the narrative surrounding the issue.

To put this into context, in more autocratic nations, independent news agencies are subjected to censorship and the pressure to include elements of ideological messages in their reporting. Gradually, the heighted trust that citizens have in these "independent" agencies prevent them from flagging misleading and bias reporting, leading to readers' formation of mental modes of the inherent righteousness of the state and their leaders, and perception of antagonists as incompetent dissenters, their criticisms and opposition to the state's national interests based on groundless arguments.

A chief concept here is that of van Dijk's ideological square. It is found that writers influence the thoughts, beliefs, and reaction of readers through the following framework:

- Express/emphasise information that is positive about Us.
- Express/emphasise information that is negative about Them.
- Suppress/de-emphasise information that is positive about Them.
- Suppress/de-emphasise information that is negative about Us.

Van Dijk proposed the integrated framework of the notion of responsibility to understand the "Us vs Them" dichotomy in politics-related discourses, and the end-goal of producing perception on the positive Us.[21] This is so whereby:

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[21] Xin, Z. "Understanding the 'Us Vs Them' Division Through the Notion of Responsibility."
E-International Relations, May 25, 2021. Accessed February 8, 2024.

- The notion of responsibility is used to construct a positive Us. Reporters and journalists, in contrast to accountable third-party non-biased actors, are driven by the intrinsic impartiality present in agencies they are employed in.[22] Representing Us as responsible actors highlights the positive attributes of Us significantly enhances the perception of the efficaciousness of governmental policies especially in political discourses. This could be seen by the emphasis on US' initiatives of providing humanistic care and advancing democracy in the world in Bush's speeches[23].

- The aspect of blaming others for wrongdoings and faults coincides with the second aspect of the ideological square, i.e. expressing/emphasising information that is negative about Them. Pushing the notion of responsibility of blame to others has been widely applied in International Relations Politics (IRP) to construct and normalise the negative Them. For example, China's state-run English newspaper *China Daily* has blamed Trump's America for protectionism and anti-globalization, and that Trump-era policies are implemented as "Washington (is) afraid of Beijing's 'Made in China 2025' marketing strategy, because it has realised that in less than a decade China will lead in many industries, particularly technology?"[24]

- The dimension of assigning duties to others in IRP echoes the third element of the ideological square, i.e. suppressing/de-emphasizing information that is positive about them. The aspect of blaming Them, detailed in the second element of the ideological scare, often coincides with a narrative that minimises or ignores any positive aspects or achievements of those entities.

- Lastly, a positive Us can also be constructed through denying blames, or blame avoidance, which is consistent with "suppressing what is negative about Us" in the ideological square. Actors in power, such as state actors, can deny the accusations of faults or wrongdoings through strategies of, for example, "act-denial ('I did not do/say that at all')" and "intention-denial ('I did not mean that', 'You got me wrong')",

https://www.e-ir.info/2021/05/25/understanding-the-us-vs-them-division-through-the-notion-of-responsibility/

[22] Bivins, T. "Responsibility and accountability." In: Fitzpatrick, K., & Bronstein, C. (Eds.), Ethics in Public Relations: Responsible Advocacy, 19–38. Sage, 2006.

[23] Abid, R.Z., & Manan, S.A. "Constructing the 'self' and the 'other' in Bush's political discourse before and after the Iraq war (2002–2008)." Journal of Language and Politics 15, no. 6 (2016): 710–726. DOI: 10.1075/jlp.15.6.03abi

[24] Brahm, L. "Protectionism with US characteristics." China Daily, November 12, 2017. Accessed February 8, 2024. https://global.chinadaily.com.cn/a/201712/11/WS5a2dd318a310eefe3e9a14f1.html

to produce a positive self-image. Often manoeuvring with the discursive strategy of defensive denial, particularly resisting or denying negative discussion about the self to construct a positive image, has also been utilised by journalists.[25]

Editorial stance is thus a crucial element that should be incorporated into all submissions. In IPG, delegates should utilise various press mechanics and formats to explicitly state their delegations' stance. For instance, in the submission of various media, delegates could use light-hearted tones to criticise council delegates that they believe are pushing for policies against the political views of their delegation. Likewise, in interviews, delegates can explicitly select the nation they wish to interview, and to highlight their support or condemnation of particular policies that council delegates wish to enact. In other multimedia pieces such as political cartoons, delegates are also recommended to utilise the press mechanics provided in this conference to point out the logical fallacies in debates or affirm the successes of council delegates during debate. Being able to accurately represent an agency's editorial stance is pivotal in framing information such that its underlying agenda is achieved.

As such, IPG delegates would need to thoroughly research their respective news agencies to gain a deeper understanding of the agencies' viewpoints and stances towards certain issues, and to reflect the nuances of their delegations in their reporting. When crafting opinion and community reports, IPG delegates are welcome to put in their style of writing, opinions and suggestions, as long as it does not undermine the stance of the respective news agency.

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[25] Pan, C., Isakhan, B., & Nwokora, Z. "Othering as soft-power discursive practice: China Daily's construction of Trump's America in the 2016 presidential election." Politics 40, no. 1 (2020): 54–69. DOI: 10.1177/0263395719843219

Knowing your Audience

Delegates should use the following methods to curate a more effective article:

Purpose: Why is the article being written?

Audience: Who is reading the article? How should the readers react after reading the article?

Context: What circumstances require the article to be written in the way it should? When is the article written (in respect to the course of council debates)?

To curate the purpose of the article, the delegate has to be familiar with the agency stance. Is the article written to praise a particular nation? Or is the article written to praise a policy which the agency agrees with financial or political incentives? Or perhaps it's just a call-to-action to condemn an injustice? The purpose of the article affects what the main point should encompass, and therefore the tone and diction to be used.

Getting to know the agency's target audience should be easy enough. Every publication has its audience, the intended body whom the writer wishes to target and reach. In order for an agency to sufficiently put its agenda and political beliefs into its readership, they should be well aware of their readership base, and develop an awareness of their target demographic so as to better tailor their message to their interests – take note of the reader's socio-economic backgrounds, their age and gender, their ethnicity. Furthermore, delegates should keep in mind how they wish readers to react after reading the article, such as the possible attitude or actions they might take, and write the article based on those.

Context is just as important. Under which circumstances the article was written will greatly impact its contents. If the article is written to purely inform the populace, then a more objective and professional tone should be used, albeit inline with the agency stance; should the article be written to highlight council proceedings which the agency vehemently disagrees on, the tone is one of much criticism. Or perhaps a sensitive topic is broached, and a more nuanced tone is to be taken?

Therefore, delegates should think of the various pointers mentioned above, and how it would affect their article writing.

Structuring an Article

When writing an article, delegates need to take note that the article has to be well-structured, and contains appealing content that attracts the attention of the reader. Writing concisely is thus the key – using minimal words to convey maximum information. This can be done using the following method.
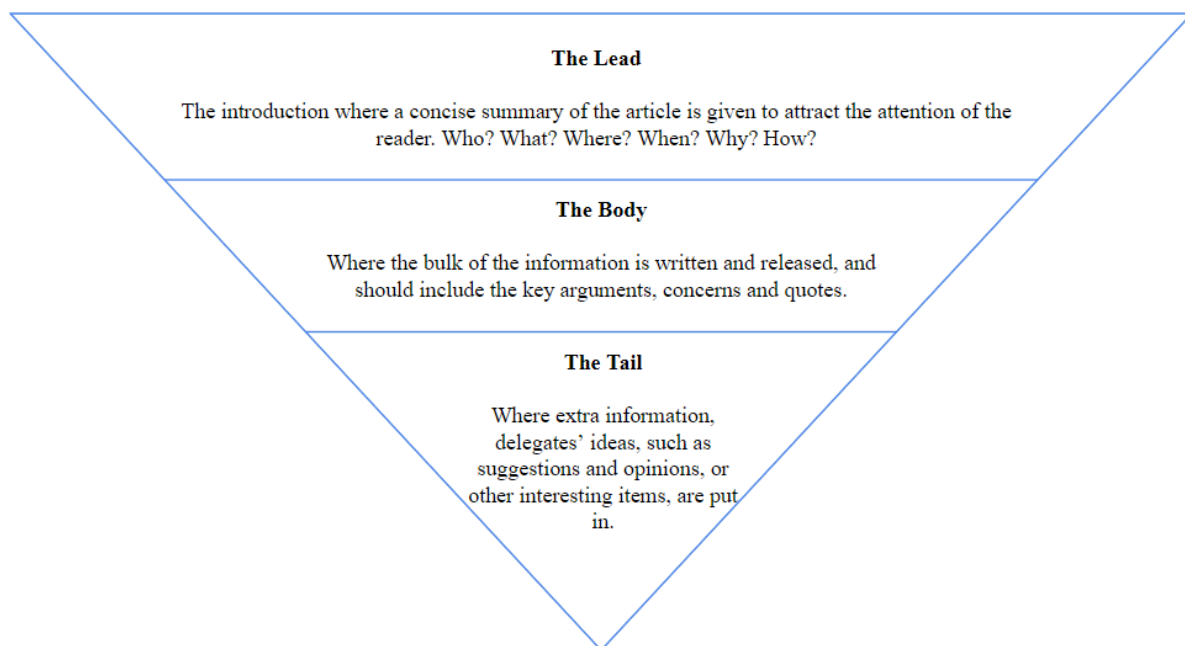
The Inverted Pyramid

The inverted pyramid is a model that is commonly used by journalists to craft news articles that grab the main point, but at the same time are engaging. A news article can be divided into 3 main sections: "The Lead'', "The Body" and "The Tail".

"The Lead" serves as the introduction, whereby the most important information should be placed concisely in a single paragraph. It should immediately convey your main message whilst capturing the attention of the reader instantaneously. It influences the reader's overall impression of the article and is the key deciding factor in whether the reader stays till the end. A good introduction is contingent on delegates' judgement and decisiveness. It is where important content is intertwined with the newest, most interesting, important, significant and attention-grabbing aspect of the story, and should merely contain a short and succinct idea, upon which the following paragraphs will revolve around and build upon. Introductions that are the worst are the ones that express uncertainty surrounding the ideas and contain several ideas, confusing the reader in the process. The best introductions compel readers to read on, while the worst will make them move on.

Then comes "The Body", which is where all the key information is placed. This could include the key arguments, concerns and quotes. Avoid using any cliche terms and analogies or sentences that are oxymoronic to avoid confusing readers. Do try to present the information in a clear, concise yet succinct manner to avoid boring the reader. The Body is also supposed to explain, support, and amplify the main idea discussed in the Lead through the effective use of evidence (be it through visual aids, quantitative data, or quotes – see below).

Finally, at "The Tail", delegates can include their ideas, such as suggestions and opinions, or include a rhetorical question to set the readers' thinking. Do note that if delegates decide to include personal ideas, do keep that at the minimum for community reports as the main focus of community reports should be on what is happening in the community and not personal

opinions. This concluding paragraph is also where a comprehensive summary of the key points discussed is written.

The Lead

The introduction where a concise summary of the article is given to attract the attention of the reader. Who? What? Where? When? Why? How?

The Body

Where the bulk of the information is written and released, and should include the key arguments, concerns and quotes.

The Tail

Where extra information, delegates' ideas, such as suggestions and opinions, or other interesting items, are put in.

Quotes

Quotes can change the pace of an article, add colour and character or illustrate bald facts. To generate quotes that are meaningful yet short, paraphrase speeches to focus on the main points. This makes speeches shorter and more comprehensible. However, do note that paraphrased quotes should still retain the original meaning of the quote.

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