

# Privacy and Financial Support

Official Delegate Guide for Press Corp



John Jay High School Model United Nations Conference V

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# Delegate Guide

## A LETTER FROM YOUR CHAIRS

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My name is Heather Sherr and I am pleased to chair JJMUNC's very first Press Corps Committee. I am a senior at John Jay High School and this is my fourth year participating in John Jay's Model United Nations Club. At JJMUNC III, I was the Vice Chair of the Ministry of Magic Committee. This is my second year organizing and leading the event, but my third year participating.

Besides MUN, I am also involved in the American Red Cross, Neighbors Link, and Relay for Life. I play the flute in John Jay's Wind Ensemble and am heavily involved with performing arts and science inside and outside of school. This is my third year in the Science Research Program and I recently conducted my own research at the University of Texas Southwestern Cardiology Lab. I plan to either be a practicing physician or an epidemiologist and hopefully, a medical writer on the side.

I enjoy following current events and am interested in the inner workings of creating and publishing news, whether that be on social media or through traditional news outlets. This inspired me to bring the Press Corps, a simulation of article writing and debate between news companies, to JJMUNC IV. Good luck to all delegates and I am excited to meet all of you! If you have questions on the committee or the position papers feel free to contact me anytime.

Heather Sherr ([hsherr19@klschools.org](mailto:hsherr19@klschools.org))

Delegates,

Hej! My name is Johann Schechter and I am excited to vice chair the first Press Corps committee at JJMUNC. I am a junior at John Jay High School and this is my third year of membership of our Model United Nations club, and my first year organizing & staffing this event.

I enjoy following current global events, and I'm interested in how opinionated news reaches its viewers - especially when it comes to where we draw the line when labelling something as propaganda.

Aside from Model UN, I'm involved in Midnight Run and Relay for Life. I'm an alto saxophonist for John Jay's Wind Ensemble, and a pianist outside of school. In my spare time I work on creating my own language, and I hope to someday be a linguist.

I look forward to meeting you all. Good luck!

If you have any questions, feel free to contact me.

Johann Schechter ([jschechter20@klschools.org](mailto:jschechter20@klschools.org))



## INTRODUCTION

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The Press Corps is a committee run by the delegates themselves. They will have control over the news discussed and recorded during the committee sessions. The culmination of this will be a newspaper that is created by the journalists themselves and will be “published” and available for all delegates at the conclusion of the conference.

This committee will be run differently than a normal Specialized Committee. The day will consist of periods of gathering information, writing articles, and moderated caucuses to discuss the role of journalists. All delegates will not only be judged on their writing, but their knowledge of journalism and their ability to articulate their ideas clearly.



## DEBATE TOPICS

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During periods where delegates are not writing or while papers are being judged, delegates will debate topics that have an impact on news companies and outlets.

### **Topic 1: Privacy and Journalism**

A good story is a personal story, in the opinion of most news outlets. Journalists are often assigned to “dig up” information people would rather be kept hidden. Where does a good journalist draw the line between a good story, and respect for their subject’s personal privacy? Should personal privacy be ignored in certain cases?

### **Topic 2: Financial Support and Journalism**

Many of the most famous news outlets are owned by corporations, such as FOX, CNN, ABC, and NBC. There is continuous debate between well-endowed and non-profit outlets as to the validity of the news presented and whether that is biased, due to the funds provided to journalists involved in the company. Does money fuel bias? Should journalists be allowed to be influenced by the company they work for?



## FORMAL REPORTING

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Two pieces of writing must be submitted to the Press Secretary in order to be eligible for an award. These pieces must be relevant to the topics of the other committees, so it is advised that publications research the topics of the General Assembly and Specialized Committees. Journalists are not limited to writing two pieces and can write anything, as long as it is in accordance with their publication and has relevance to the other committees. All writing should be double spaced and in font size twelve.

*Note: Crisis committees and some Specialized Committees will be off-limits.*

Articles should fall into the following categories.

### **Hard News Article**

This article can be a breaking news article (less than 250 words), an interview, or a general overview of the events of a committee. The list of committees that can be visited will be provided at the conference. These should traditionally exclude the opinion of the journalist or publication, but if a publication is always biased or shares opinions in their reporting, the journalists should do so as well. Journalists should note what type of writing they are submitting at the bottom of their submissions.

### **Editorial or Op-Ed**

The opinion piece can be loosely based off of the events of a committee, but can also be your publication's opinion on an issue relevant to the other committees. The piece must be over 500 words, but does not have to be formatted into columns. It is important to stress the different types of opinion pieces, so journalists should be

informed on the difference between an editorial and an op-ed and note which they are writing at the bottom of their documents.

*Note: Word count can be found on Google Docs by clicking Tools, then Word Count.*

### **Informal Reporting**

If desired, it would be interesting to receive reports of the actual conference itself. These can be anecdotal and are solely meant to keep all participants in the conference informed. This is not required. For these reports, student names, as well as positions, can be used for quoting purposes and interviewing can be conducted during breaks.



## REPORTING RULES

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- I. Journalists are restricted to the committees approved by the Press Secretary.
- II. Journalists are not to collect information from other delegates during breaks or lunch (except if writing an informal report).
- III. Journalists are not to interrupt committee sessions and will only be given a certain time period to collect information.
- IV. Journalists will have a specific time deadline for their submissions. Any work submitted after that time will not be reviewed. Delegates can either share their work on Google Docs with the Press Secretary at [heather.sherr@aol.com](mailto:heather.sherr@aol.com) or email their documents to [hsherr19@klschools.org](mailto:hsherr19@klschools.org).
- V. Ensure that grammar and spelling are correct on all submitted documents. The Press Secretary and Vice Chair will not be proofreading or making edits on any work.
- VI. Journalists may interview and record delegates. If a journalist is including quotes from a delegate, they must have permission from that delegate and the quote must be word for word. Journalists can shorten them without changing the connotation of the quote. Filler words and unnecessary phrases can be replaced with ellipses. For example, if a delegate states: "We, the United States of America, do not approve of the actions of the delegation of China," the quote can be shortened to "We... do not approve of the actions of the delegation of China."
- VII. Journalists must stay in character in their writing and in their interactions. For example, CNN would not be obtaining information from the Democratic People's Republic of Korea.

VIII. All reporting must be in accordance to the publication journalists are representing. Stay in character!

IX. All submitted documents must be written in Associated Press (AP) Style. The following two links provide examples.

A. [https://www.lssc.edu/faculty/heather\\_j\\_elmatti/Shared%20Documents/MMC%202100/AP%20Style%20Guide.pdf](https://www.lssc.edu/faculty/heather_j_elmatti/Shared%20Documents/MMC%202100/AP%20Style%20Guide.pdf)

B. <http://www.larrylitwin.com/handouts/21%20-%20AP%20Style%20Summary.pdf>



## PUBLICATION BACKGROUNDS

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**American Broadcasting Company (ABC) News-** A mostly unbiased news source, ABC News is one of the most popular news outlets in the United States. Associated with a large corporation, the publication must decide what is most important: profit or impactful, quality reporting?

<https://abcnews.go.com/>

**Associated Press (AP)-** According to themselves, AP is “Where Stories Begin.” Associated Press boasts its 2,000 daily new stories and impressive 1 million photographs per year. This publication strongly encourages impartiality and has high quality news reports.

<https://www.ap.org/en-us/>

**Breitbart News-** Conceived as the “Huffington Post of the right,” Breitbart News is an extremely far right news network with heavily opinionated news articles. Its opposers claim that the source contains inaccurate and misleading information that is damaging to the public.

<https://www.breitbart.com/>

**BuzzFeed-** BuzzFeed is an online entertainment company that is also involved in news and media coverage. This left-skewing news outlet is often frowned upon by both parties, because of its opinion based news and use of clickbait. It is up to BuzzFeed to prove themselves as a legitimate news source.

<https://www.buzzfeed.com/>

**Columbia Broadcasting System (CBS) News-** Another major corporation and a largely impactful news company, CBS is responsible for producing quality content with minimal partisan bias in order to gain viewership of all demographics.

<https://www.cbsnews.com/>

**Cable News Network (CNN)-** CNN is under extreme amounts of scrutiny due to their slight liberal partisan bias and fair quality of reporting. President Donald Trump, among many others, has claimed that CNN publishes “fake news,” lowering their viewership and overall credibility as a news source.

<https://www.cnn.com/>

**Daily Beast-** A smaller news company, Daily Beast is known for being an opinionated publication with a strong liberal bias, making the publication unpopular among conservatives. The publication is unafraid of its bias and regularly publishes articles attacking prominent Republican political figures.

<https://www.thedailybeast.com/>

**Fox News-** One of the most controversial news companies, Fox News is a hyper-partisan conservative news outlet that gives many unfair interpretations of the media. A satellite television and basic cable news source, as well as an online media outlet, Fox News posts many highly opinionated articles on politics, business, and entertainment.

<http://www.foxnews.com/>



**Microsoft and National Broadcasting Company (MSNBC)-** MSNBC is advertised as a branch of NBC News, a major American news corporation. It combines hard news with political opinion pieces. Although it skews liberal, its opinions are generally fair and based on facts.

<http://www.msnbc.com/>

**Mother Jones-** A small, progressive magazine, Mother Jones focuses on American politics, culture, and human rights through their persuasive, but accurate, journalism and photography. The issue that arises for the magazine is funding, because it is not funded by any major corporations.

<https://www.motherjones.com/>

**National Enquirer-** The oldest American supermarket tabloid, National Enquirer is a celebrity gossip publication. Although it is considered mostly politically neutral, the information published is often fabricated for dramatization purposes. National Enquirer is now in a troubling situation, because there are reports that the magazine submitted articles to President Trump's attorney, Michael Cohen, before publication.

<https://www.nationalenquirer.com/>

**National Public Radio (NPR)-** National Public Radio is a non-profit that specializes in news analysis online and through over 100 public radio stations. The company has minimal partisan bias and is praised for its fact-based reporting.

<https://www.npr.org/>

**New Republic**- A commentary-based news company, New Republic is extremely liberal and reports on politics, pop culture, and world news. It is a highly persuasive news source that is selective in what news it presents to the public.

<https://newrepublic.com/>

**Patribotics**- A blog of "investigative journalism" run by Louise Mensch, a self-proclaimed conservative, Patribotics is a prime example of an extremely left-leaning news source with the sole purpose of persuading an audience. It may contain fabricated or misleading information and uses this to target conservative groups, such as the NRA and the Trump administration. Blogs like this leave some questions for debate. Is Patribotics a news outlet? Should Louise Mensch and other citizen journalists be held to the same standards as other news sources?

<https://patribotics.blog/>

**RedState**- Another political blog, RedState is an opinion-based hub for conservative activism. The group is extremely biased towards conservatives, firing any of their writers that do not support President Donald Trump and his political agenda.

<https://www.redstate.com/>

**Reuters**- Reuters is one of the highest praised news outlets in America, due to its minimal partisan bias and highly original and factual reports. Reuters mostly focuses on business and technology developments, but also frequently discusses national and international politics.



<https://www.reuters.com/>

**The American Conservative**- The name says it all with this magazine. It is an extremely right-leaning bi-monthly American magazine that is non-profit published by the American Ideas Institute. Although it is biased, the news shared by this magazine is all fair and accurate.

[www.theamericanconservative.com/](http://www.theamericanconservative.com/)

**The Blaze**- "Authentic. Unfiltered. Fearless." Inspired by conservative Glenn Beck, The Blaze is a digital news network that is highly opinion-based and contains commentary on current events and politics. This publication is often considered similar to Breitbart News.

<https://www.theblaze.com/>

**The Chicago Tribune**- A newspaper centered in Chicago, Illinois, The Chicago Tribune is one of the oldest newspapers in the nation. Its most prominent topics for reporting are sports, entertainment, opinion, and business. The source is highly unbiased, mainly because it rarely reports on politics.

<http://www.chicagotribune.com/>

**The Federalist**- With headlines like, "It's Suspicious That The FBI And DOJ Didn't Check Into Christopher Steele's Leaks To The Press," The Federalist is a publication of hyper conservative political skeptics who analyze the actions of the United States

government. These interpretations of the news can be unfair at times, aiming to persuade the readers.

<http://thefederalist.com/>

**The Hill**- A publication for politicians, the Hill tends to skew toward the political party that is in power in Washington D.C. Although biased, their reports are highly analytical and complex.

<http://thehill.com/>

**The Huffington Post**- A national and international news outlet, the Huffington Post is an opinion and news website containing breaking news, entertainment pieces, politics, and lifestyle articles. Although entertaining, the site contains biased information and is heavily left-leaning, making it difficult to fully trust their articles.

<https://www.huffingtonpost.com/>

**The New York Times**- Although scrutinized as being biased, the New York Times is fairly neutral on political spectrums and gives factual reports on U.S. and world politics, health, science, sports, and business.

<https://www.nytimes.com/>

**Thirty Mile Zone (TMZ)**- An entertainment news company started by AOL, TMZ is a tabloid news site that although is not considered to be a quality news source, is a news source nonetheless. TMZ is known for their "clickbaitey" headlines on their



articles and videos that are meant to persuade viewers into reading or watching their content.

<http://www.tmz.com/>

**Time**- Regarded as one of the most prominent and quality news sources, Time has a reputation for unbiased and in-depth reporting.

<http://time.com/>

**USA Today**- Another neutral media outlet, USA Today reports on finance, international politics, sports, and breaking news. The stories reported are often in-depth analyses of breaking news and contain original reporting.

<http://usatoday.com>

**Wall Street Journal**- Based in New York City, the Wall Street Journal is well known for its international reporting and commitment to the public, as seen in its assistance in the release of the Pentagon Papers. Skewing slightly liberal, the publication still aims to give the highest quality content to its viewers.

<https://www.wsj.com/>

**The Washington Post**- A daily newspaper based in Washington D.C., The Washington Post is a largely political publication that has a relatively equal balance of partisan bias on both sides.

<https://www.washingtonpost.com/>

# General Information

## POSITION PAPERS

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Each journalist must submit a Position Paper to the Press Secretary. This paper is a basic summary of the values of the publication and their opinion on the debate topics. Position papers should be in font size 12 and double spaced. These papers should be no longer than 2 pages single spaced. The paper should also included an MLA formatted bibliography of sources (this does not count towards the 2 pages). The paper should be emailed to [hsherr19@aol.com](mailto:hsherr19@aol.com) by Thursday, November 15, 2018.



## ELIGIBILITY FOR AWARDS

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- I. The committee will be judged on
- II. Completion- Journalists must submit a Position Paper and at least 2 pieces, one hard news article and one opinion piece.
- III. Representation- Journalists must in character in debate and in their writing.
- IV. Quality of Writing- Journalists must conform to AP Style and submit work that is
  - A. Informative
  - B. Original
  - C. Free of errors