



WHISMUN 2026

The Next Frontier
27th & 28th June, 2026.



STUDY GUIDE

INTERNATIONAL PRESS

Agenda : Photography And Journalism

Contents

JOURNALISM	3
RESEARCH METHODOLOGY	3
ROLES AND REPORTING	3
Report	3
Op-ed	4
Press Conference	5
STYLE	5
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	5
Submission Deadline	5
THE HEMINGWAY CHALLENGE	6
USE OF AI	6
SAMPLE REPORT	6
PHOTOGRAPHY	8
Introduction	8
COMPOSITION TIPS	8
Common Composition Techniques	8
Understanding Technical Settings For Composition	10
THE HEMINGWAY CHALLENGE	11
GRADING CRITERIA	11
Hemingway Challenge (2 photos per-day)	11
Organizing Committee (10 photos per-day)	11
Composition Types (10 photos per-day)	12
Miscellaneous Photos (5 photos total)	12
SUBMISSION GUIDELINES	12
Submission Deadline	12
Image Editing	12
Submission Method	12

JOURNALISM

Journalism is often regarded as the “fourth pillar of democracy”. It is imperative to ensure transparency and accountability for public and government authorities. The qualities that make a good journalist include articulation, thorough knowledge of the issue at hand, a lack of bias, and professionalism, all while exuding confidence.

Each Journalist at WHISMUN shall be expected to embody these principles to the greatest extent possible. Each Journalist shall be assigned a committee and is expected to keenly observe, analyse and report on the themes discussed by the various delegates.

RESEARCH METHODOLOGY

1. Read the background guide thoroughly, but do not be confined to the same. Consider it to be the starting point for your research.
2. Gather extensive knowledge about the recent events occurred in, and themes relevant with, the agenda of the committee that you are assigned to report on. Go through articles, research papers and other relevant documents.
3. Journalists should comprehensively cover the committee, considering its diverse delegate stances and power dynamics. Review the country matrix, understand historical positions, and compare them with delegates' views. Note any adherence to or deviation from foreign policies and how power blocs' objectives unfold. This insight is crucial for writing informed articles, Op-Eds, and conducting effective interviews.

ROLES AND REPORTING

Report

The majority of writing for the reports will contain news reporting, drawing upon debates, caucuses, and resolutions observed by the Journalists in the various committee simulations.

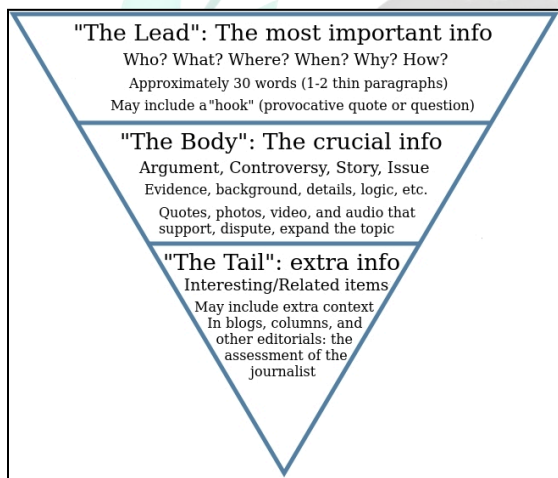
Some standards to follow while writing a report are:

- 1) The Report should not consist/start with words/sentences like ‘moderated caucus’, ‘the mun began with’, or ‘day 1 saw’.
- 2) Any sort of inherent/coherent bias will not be tolerated at all. Journalists are expected to report with precision and in an unprejudiced manner.
- 3) The conference is designed for reporters to have comprehensive freedom in reporting. Reporters are encouraged to address any concerns or questions with the IP head.
- 4) All the reporters are expected to research committee agendas well in advance. Failure to do so will result in negative marking. This will be strictly adhered to.

- 5) All reports should be 'justified'
- 6) Font size for the headline should be '16'
- 7) Font size for dateline/ byline should be 14
- 8) The font size for the report should be 12.
- 9) The font style should be Times New Roman/Sans Serif.

It is recommended to follow the inverted pyramid structure while writing a report, whereby, the most important information is written in the first paragraph(lead) followed by a paragraph or two dedicated to providing some nuance and/or crucial information(body) and ended with some non-essential background information and optionally a conclusion.

Word Limit: 250-300 words



Word limit: 250-300 words

Article Count: 2 (one for each session of the conference)

Op-ed

An 'op-ed' is an essay in a newspaper or magazine that gives the opinions of its editors or publishers.

It would differ from a traditional report in that it would contain the Journalist's opinionated take on the issue at hand, including any bias towards any nation or delegate.

An 'op-ed' isn't concerned with giving a holistic view of the committee proceedings but rather provides the author's unique take on the subject. It should demonstrate intellectual rigour and present a thorough analysis of a pertinent topic, preferably supported by a data-driven narrative.

Word Limit: <500 words

Press Conference

One of the most important skills of a journalist is the art of asking informed questions. This skill shall be judged as Journalists would be given an opportunity to ask 3-5 questions to delegates in their respective committee/council. The scheme of asking questions would be indicated by the IPC head before the Press Conference commences and all the questions to be asked shall be pre -approved by the IPC head.

It must be noted that the number of questions asked and the duration thereof, may be changed at the discretion of the IPC head.

The key to asking great questions lies is often a determinant of the keenness with which the Journalist has followed the deliberations of the committee and the thoroughness with which they have researched.

STYLE

It must be noted that the official writing style followed would be the AP Stylebook. Keep in the mind the following key writing principles:

1. **Abbreviations:** Spell out every single abbreviation, the first time it occurs in a news article. Henceforth, one may use the abbreviation,
2. **Lowercase:**
 - a. directional indicators,
 - b. the names of the seasons unless they are used in a proper name
 - c. formal titles that appear on their own or follow a name
3. **Capitalise** common nouns that are part of a name,
4. In general, spell out numbers one through nine while, use figures for numbers 10 on up,
5. It is recommended to use a semicolon to clarify a series that includes a number of commas,
6. Use a person's full name on the first reference,
7. To form a plural of a single letter, use "s" and an apostrophe.

For the detailed AP format, visit <https://www.apstylebook.com/>

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission will be decided before the commencement of committee sessions. Submissions must be on time, failure to do so will lead to a deduction in marks.

The naming convention to be followed is: 'name_committee_session-Number_typeOfSubmission'

THE HEMINGWAY CHALLENGE

A story in six words; that is what they say Ernest Hemingway wrote. Taken as a challenge, he came up with the tragic: “For sale: baby shoes, never worn.” Since then, countless others have worked to pack just the right combination of meaning, emotion, and impact into a half-a-dozen words.

The challenge for reporters at this conference is to condense their report titles to exactly six words. The six-word title should provide a concise gist of the report’s core content.

USE OF AI

Kindly refrain from using generative AI tools, such as ChatGPT, Claude, Gemini, or others of a similar vein, for the purpose of writing, enhancing, reframing, or rephrasing your reports. The use of such tools for the purpose of research is permitted, however it is discouraged.

Furthermore, journalists should never rely solely on GenAI for the entirety of their research. A journalist must always strive to:

1. Seek primary sources such as research articles or government / UN published reports, datasets or statistics.
2. Verify via corroboration i.e check if multiple trusted news organizations are reporting the exact same event.
3. Check citations on news articles or reports to trace the claim back to its original sources.

The content provided by GenAI may not always be accurate. You should not rely on the content produced as the sole source of truth or factual information. You must evaluate the content for appropriateness and accuracy before adding it to your report.

SAMPLE REPORT

Much Ado About Nothing

10th December, 2023.

“Procrastination is a luxury and we cannot afford it”

The SDG Summit on midway progress of the Global Goals aimed to analyze progress and discuss urgent measures to achieve these goals. Many a discussion, debate and deliberation later, nations that should have been seeing eye-to-eye and agreeing on improved policies and measures were left pointing fingers at each other.

As quoted above, the delegate of The United Kingdom and Northern Ireland emphasized on the imperative nature of immediate international actions - that at the current rate of progress, SDGs would be fulfilled by 2082 at the earliest. A three-pronged approach was proposed by her to

leverage experiences from the recent COVID-19 pandemic as a measure of building resilience against future crises that may hamper the SDG progress: Find, Move and Lead.

1. Find common ground for collaboration
2. Move fast and analyze setbacks
3. Lead with decision and diversity

The delegate of The United States of America attempted to draw the attention of the committee towards the analysis and assessment of the SDGs. He raised a motion to “foster sustainable development by promoting human rights aligning with the SDG”. It wouldn’t be unfair to say that his efforts, unfortunately, were in vain. The delegate of Indonesia had claimed that the global SDG fulfillment index is not meeting its target by 67% and after observing the summit today it is abundantly clear as to why. Even after an entire session of discussions, the term SDG was being thrown around very vaguely with no delegate attempting to dwell specifically into any of the 17 goals that the SDG entails.

It took nations a whole five hours to finally agree on a motion to assess the national midway progress of the 2030 agenda. This prompted the first round of discussions pertaining to the agenda. The delegates spoke of their SDG fulfilment ranks and how many goals they have managed to accomplish. Yet, just like the efforts made by their respective countries towards sustainable development, these assessments proved to be too little too late.

Putting a morbid twist to the already harrowing words of George Orwell, the committee deems “some goals of the SDG” to be “more equal than the others”. Nearing the last session for the day, nations still haven’t decided on the “precedence” of the 17 SDGs and which of them should be analyzed first. At the end of the day, the words of William Shakespeare, penned down centuries ago, still ring true as all of this was “Much Ado About Nothing”.

PHOTOGRAPHY

Introduction

Photography, or in the context of a MUN conference, Photojournalism, is the practice of reporting news through photographs. It plays a crucial role in shaping public opinion, raising awareness, and documenting history.

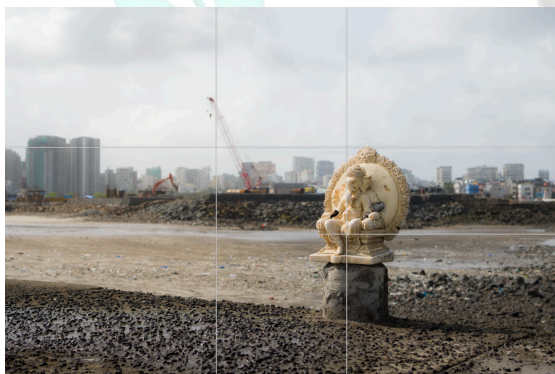
COMPOSITION TIPS

Composition refers to how elements are arranged within a photograph, including but not limited to the main subject. It is distinct from the subject itself, as it encompasses the entire frame. The human eye naturally prefers images with a sense of order and balance, while chaotic compositions are often less appealing. Good composition creates harmony and visual interest, while poor composition can detract from the image's impact. To improve composition, it's essential to understand and practice the various guidelines—often referred to as "rules"—that help structure an image effectively, keeping in mind that these are more flexible guidelines than strict rules.

Common Composition Techniques

The Rule of Thirds

The rule of thirds suggests dividing the image into nine equal sections, placing the subject at one of the intersecting points rather than the center. This creates a more visually engaging composition, as the human eye tends to be drawn to off-center points of interest, making the image feel more balanced and dynamic.



Leading Lines

Lines, whether straight, diagonal, or curved, guide the viewer's eye through the photo. Leading lines can direct attention to specific elements, adding depth and drama. Diagonal lines, in particular, can create dynamic movement and a sense of infinity in an image.



Framing

In photography, a “natural frame” doesn’t always mean a literal frame. It can refer to elements like doorways, arches, or tree branches that isolate the subject and direct the viewer’s attention. By using natural frames, you can emphasize your subject and create a visual focus within the image.



Symmetry

Symmetry involves balancing both sides of an image to create harmony. It allows for breaking the rule of thirds and can be found in both nature and man-made elements. Look for symmetrical patterns, particularly those with strong lines or curves, which enhance the visual appeal of the image.



Viewpoint

The viewpoint can dramatically alter the mood of a photograph. For example, shooting a child from above makes them appear smaller or less significant, while shooting at eye level offers an equal perspective, and shooting from below can create a sense of dominance. Perspective also affects the perceived size of objects, such as emphasizing the height of a tree by shooting upward.



Understanding Technical Settings For Composition

Managing ISO and Noise: In a low-light environment like a classroom with artificial lighting, you might need to raise your ISO to capture enough light. However, increasing ISO can introduce noise (grain) into the image. A good starting point might be ISO 800-1600 but test in your specific lighting conditions to find the optimal balance. You could also use noise reduction software during post-processing if necessary.

Slowing Down Shutter Speed: If you're dealing with light banding or flicker from artificial lights, slowing down the shutter speed can help reduce this effect. Artificial lighting, especially fluorescent or LED lights, may cause a flickering effect that appears as horizontal bands across your images. A slower shutter speed can help smooth out this flickering. However, be mindful of motion blur if your subject is moving. A tripod can help stabilize the shot if you're using slower shutter speeds.

White Balance Adjustment: Cool, white/blue artificial lights often result in images with a cold, unnatural color cast. Adjust your camera's white balance to compensate for this.

Grid Lines for Composition: To help with compositional balance and alignment, enable the grid lines on your camera's viewfinder or screen. These lines divide the frame into thirds, both horizontally and vertically, which aligns with the rule of thirds. Using grid lines can assist in positioning your subject or focal point at key intersections, creating a more dynamic and visually pleasing image.

THE HEMINGWAY CHALLENGE

A story in six words; that is what they say Ernest Hemingway wrote. Taken as a challenge, he came up with the tragic: "For sale: baby shoes, never worn." Since then, countless others have worked to pack just the right combination of meaning, emotion, and impact into a half-a-dozen words.

The challenge for photographers at this conference is to pen a six-word caption with each photo submission. Each entry must consist of one photograph accompanied by exactly six words, designed to change the viewer's perception of the image.

GRADING CRITERIA

Each section will be scored out of a specific maximum total, and the final score will be a combination of the scores from each section.

Hemingway Challenge (2 photos per-day)

Capture 2 photos that tell a compelling story and then jot down that story in exactly 6-words. Submissions will be graded based on:

Caption (6-word story): Does the caption effectively convey what the photo captures?

Composition and Technique: Is the image technically well-executed with appropriate focus, exposure, and framing that enhances the emotional impact?

Organizing Committee (10 photos per-day)

Capture 10 photos of Organizing Committee (OC) members at work, focusing on candid moments and behind-the-scenes actions. Submissions will be graded based on:

Storytelling: Does the photo capture the behind-the-scenes action or effort of the Organizing Committee? Does it provide insight into the OC's role and the event's inner workings?

Composition and Technique: Is the image technically well-executed with appropriate focus, exposure, and framing?

Composition Types (10 photos per-day)

Submit 2 photos each for 5 different composition techniques: Rule of Thirds, Leading Lines, Framing, Symmetry, and Viewpoint.

Submissions will be graded based on:

Execution: Does the photographer effectively use the chosen compositional technique in a creative and visually striking way? Is the rule clearly incorporated into the shot?

Technique: Is the image technically well-executed with appropriate focus, exposure, and framing?

Miscellaneous Photos (5 photos total)

Submit 5 miscellaneous photos that don't fit the other categories. Submissions will be graded based on:

Creativity and Innovation: Are the photos unique, imaginative, or taken from an interesting perspective? Do they offer a fresh approach to capturing the event?

Composition and Technique: Is the image technically well-executed with appropriate focus, exposure, and framing?

SUBMISSION GUIDELINES

Submission Deadline

The deadline for submission will be decided before the commencement of committee sessions. Submissions must be on time, failure to do so will lead to a deduction in marks.

Image Editing

Editing is not mandatory; however, if you choose to edit your images, please keep adjustments minimal. Avoid over-editing, such as excessive sharpening, saturation, or heavy filters. The goal is to enhance the photo while preserving its natural look and authenticity.

Submission Method

All images must be uploaded to the provided drive link. Photographers are required to create their own folder and organize their photos into 4 separate folders, one for each category:

1. Hemingway
2. Compositions

3. Miscellaneous
4. Organizing Committee (OC)
5. All Photos

Name each photo according to its category and specific emotion or composition type. Example:

1. Hemingway_1.jpg
2. composition_ruleOfThirds_1.jpg
3. Misc_1.jpg
4. oc_1.jpg

Please ensure your files are well-organized and clearly labelled to facilitate the grading process.

