



# Press Handbook

MSMUN

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## Letter from the chair

2022-2023

*Almost all good writing begins with terrible first efforts. You need to start somewhere. ~Anne Lamott*

Greetings delegate

We are delighted you have joined us in this year's MSMUN. Have a warm welcome to what lots of press delegates have constructed year by year, and feel free to put your knowledge and capabilities out there to contribute to this creation. With this handbook, you will be learning all that it takes to be a press delegate, as it is a useful tool you can use if you encounter any doubts during or before the model.

Press is all about writing, listening, analyzing, and participating. Moreover, since the beginning of time, in some way or another, humans have needed communication, either through drawings or other means, this is what moves history; in other words, think that when you write your article, summary, or infographic you will be making history. History that will not only shape you but will contribute to your academic development. We assure you that the knowledge you acquire will be useful for your whole life, you will always have something to write or comment on with respect and with proper words.

This is your opportunity to help all delegates and presidents find solutions to ongoing crises and disputes, your time to change the world with your point of view and skills. We hope and expect that with your help we can make the Press committee into a more valuable one in which everyone can unravel and *make the impossible possible*.

Sofía Sierra - Ana María Rodríguez - Sofía Upegui  
Press Presidents

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## **Writing a summary**

A summary is based on a short review of the occurrences lived in the committee using keywords, significant terms, and relevant events so the text does not show itself as very long. A summary must be informative but attractive so people, after having read what you wrote, are left longing to read more about the topic and committee.

In a summary for MSMUN you can follow a chronological order of events. This is not mandatory, nor more likable for the presidents, it is just a good and easy method you can use to improve your summary writing.

### **Remember**

- A summary must be written in your own words.
- Summaries are objective. Your opinion should not be included in any part of the text and you should remain impartial always.
- It is important to state at the beginning of your summary the topic being discussed and the day of the model. If there was more than one topic treated in one day, you are free to divide your summary by the number of topics treated.

### **Example of a summary**

#### **DISEC:**

Addressing the topic of demilitarizing outer space, begins the disarmament and international security committee. Delegations such as the United States have stated that war is inevitable and already present, on the other hand, multiple delegations have affirmed that outer space must be only used for future development and research. The delegation of Syria, for example, clearly stated that its republic has vowed to not fill space with weapons and mass destruction, consequently, reaching a common understanding to minimize threats to national security and space debris.

#### **CEEC**

El tema del primer día de debate fue la retrospectiva del mandato presidencial de Iván Duque Márquez durante sus 4 años de gobierno. Alonso Salazar y Gustavo Petro cuestionan la efectividad y cumplimiento de sus propuestas. No obstante, también se estableció que al inicio de su mandato, Duque recibió un país con diversas condiciones como consecuencia de decisiones tomadas por mandatarios anteriores. Francia Márquez apoya a Petro y por esta razón establece que el incremento del PIB durante este 2022 no es sinónimo de bienestar. Federico Gutiérrez por su lado está totalmente solo y sin alianzas ya que es un partido independiente y aunque sus ideales sean de derecha no van de la mano del gobierno de Duque.

#### **ECOSOC**

During the morning session of day two, the committee started the session by completing the

working papers for the first topic which consisted of the evaluation of the possibility of redirecting funding away from the police and presenting them to everyone present. The working paper done by the United States, China, and its sponsors, was passed after a long time of resistance and amendments done by the delegation of Ireland. Afterward, the working paper done by Syria, Ireland, and its sponsors were refuted by amendments from other nations and did not pass after a close voting session.

\*This is an example of a summary in chronological order.

## **Creating an interview**

An interview consists of meeting a person face to face to ask him/her/they information on a topic of interest in which he/she/they has participated, has an opinion, or has a significant amount of knowledge. With questions, hopefully, previously made and thought on the spot, the interviewer will ask one by one and will give enough time to the interviewee to respond clearly. Finally, end the interview by thanking the interviewee and wishing him success in the model, the war, etc.

Interviews can be done personally, virtually, or even by phone call so be prepared depending on which modality you will be working with.

### **Remember:**

- Stipulate with the person you want to interview, the **time** and the **length of the meeting**. Respect these times and present to the press presidents who this person will be, from which committee is he/she/they coming from, and the hour stipulated so they can talk to other presidents about permissions and absences.
- Prepare your questions beforehand.
- Be sure of the spelling of the name and personal data of the person you are interviewing.
- For a face-to-face interview, be there some minutes before the stipulated hour you agreed with your interviewee.
- If your interview is a video, pick a quiet, comfortable, and pretty place for the background.
- Prioritize the interviewee's comfort and opinion. Do not pressure yourself to find the answer you want and wait for him/her/they to finish speaking for you to explain the next question or a follow-up one.
- Avoid yes/no questions so it is easier to analyze the information in the answer.
- Tell the person you interview to answer briefly, the interview should not take a lot of time.

## Example of a written interview

### John has a job interview for a Saturday job

**Interviewer:** So, you've applied for the Saturday position, right? **John:** Yes, I have.

**Interviewer:** Can you tell me what made you reply to our advertisement? **John:** Well, I was looking for a part-time job to help me through college. And I think that I'd be really good at this kind of work.

**Interviewer:** Do you know exactly what you would be doing as a shop assistant?

**John:** Well I imagine I would be helping customers, keeping a check on the supplies in the store, and preparing the shop for business.

**Interviewer:** That about covers it, you would also be responsible for keeping the front of the store tidy. What sort of student do you regard yourself as . . . did you enjoy studying while you were at school?

**John:** I suppose I'm a reasonable student. I passed all my exams and I enjoy studying subjects that interest me.

**Interviewer:** Have you any previous work experience?

**John:** Yes. I worked part-time at a take-away in the summer holidays.

**Interviewer:** Now, do you have any questions you'd like to ask me about the position?

**John:** Yes. Could you tell me what hours I'd have to work? **Interviewer:** We open at 9.00, but you would be expected to arrive at 8.30 and we close at 6.00 pm. You would be able to leave then.

I think I have asked you everything I wanted to. Thank you for coming along to the interview.

**John:** Thank you. When will I know if I have been successful?

**Interviewer:** We'll be making our decision next Monday, we'll give you a call

## Useful questions

We encourage you to create your own questions, try to use a maximum of 3 questions shown below. Each interview should be different, you have a lot to ask.

- Could you please present yourself and the role you have on this committee?
- What has been the most controversial topic in the debate?
- Is there any delegate you admire? Why?
- What is the discussion topic right now?
- Do you have any tips for other delegates?
- How do you prepare yourself for these models?
- What are the best and worst aspects of going to a UN model?
- What was your first impression of the MSMUN?
- What is your current impression of MSMUN?

## Writing an article

An article's main purpose is to be read by a broad public; therefore it often varies its formality depending on its audience. In MSMUN, an article's main purpose is to narrate in a partial manner what the committee has...

### Parts of an article

- **Introduction**

This is the first part of your text so include always all topics debated and some context surrounding them. Be creative and write as if you wanted the reader to read more. Do not forget to include important details like past tensions between countries or economical situations that influence the committee.

- **Body**

- Paragraph 1: should be a narrative of day 1 or topic 1
- Paragraph 2 (transition paragraph): Close topic 1 and introduce topic 2
- Paragraph 3 Close topic 2

- **Conclusion**

Be brief! In conclusion, you should summarize what the committee has debated for the past 3 days. Don't forget to tie things up! try to write your introduction and conclusions of the committee and do not forget to begin with a concluding connector such as "all in all" or "to conclude".

### Remember:

- The title should be according to the relevant topics.
- Here you can include your own writing style and famous or personal quotes. This is your moment to shine!
- Be completely impartial and objective while writing

### Example of article

#### Conflict to the stars and back

Done by: Hana Takahashi and Paulina Juliao. (DISEC)

Before peace, there is always conflict. The Disarmament and International Security Committee (DISEC) is seeking international peace and global security for all regarding the deactivation of potentially hazardous weaponries. Nevertheless, demilitarization in outer space and the use of non-conventional weapons by belligerent groups were only some of the most pertinent problems in this committee. To decipher a mutual understanding, nations had to debate and create solutions that would benefit humanity and a new era of peace and prosperity.

Subsequently to the opening motion, the delegates proceeded to state their inciting position regarding the topic of demilitarization of outer Space. Ambassadors established two different viewpoints which resulted, each, in work papers. One was supported by nations such as the United States of America and the Republic of India, expressing that weapons should only be used for legitimate self-defense and should be regulated. Opposite to this, the delegation of the People's Republic of China associated with the Russian Federation stated that these devices should be prohibited from orbiting the Earth, as the Treaty of the Placement of Weapons in Outer Space ratifies.

Whilst the debate was being conducted, a crisis emerged; a satellite belonging to Italy stopped working in the early hours of the morning. It is believed it was destroyed by a Chinese space station as an act of sabotage. Almost immediately, delegates stated their position and agreed to implement sanctions. Afterward, a crisis update was announced, "*The United States had already placed weapons in Space*". During lobby time, ambassadors discussed how the actions of the U.S were a "game-changer", and many delegates such as the Federation of Russia expressed the necessity of the prohibition of weapons in Outer Space. Both points of view were written on work papers, which were presented and discussed, and for the process of voting. Working paper 1.1.1, prohibiting the launch and usage of military weapons in the Orbit, did not pass due to a lack of votes. However, there was a motion to consider it as a substantive matter, as expected the result was corresponding to the previous one. For work paper 1.1.2, the outcome did not change. Given this fact, there wasn't final paperwork for this matter and the subject is left without a consensus.

Later on in the model, the ambassadors discussed the second topic which involved the use of non-conventional weapons by belligerent groups. A larger number of the delegations established their opposition towards the problem, including the State of Japan and The French Republic. On

the other hand, delegations such as The Democratic People's Republic of Korea stated: *"We support belligerent groups to have non-conventional weapons"*, claiming that is the only way minorities can defend themselves and create a revolution against the government. This position intensified the route of discussion in the committee and granted an opportunity for the crisis to evolve, and become of utmost importance concerning international security boundaries.

On the second day of debate, it was witnessed that Kazakhstan departed from the Russian Federation. This was an impactful event, as Kazakhstan is one of the major manufacturers of non-conventional weaponry for the Russian military group. As the shipment was being returned to Russia, a belligerent group financed by the United States of America forcefully acquired these devices, violating the sovereignty of Kazakhstan. In an attempt to retrieve these weapons, delegations such as China and Morocco, sent ten airplanes to investigate the situation, which was later destroyed by the Russian Federation. As a response to actions taken by the United States of America, The People's Democratic Republic of China sent a packet of Anthrax, a biological weapon, to the delegation. After discussing the subject, delegates from DISEC concluded conjointly producing a unique working paper. The objective of such, was for the nations of the United States of America, The Russian Federation, and The People's Democratic of China to take responsibility for actions taken and to prohibit the proliferation and commercialization of future chemical, biological and nuclear weapons as it was stated in treaties such as the Non-Proliferation Treaty (NPT).

To conclude, the countries' perspectives and their approach towards it significantly changed. Ambassadors rethought the concepts of well-being for the people and care for the social, economical, and political branches of each individual delegation. Taking into account all the issues and treaties that had been previously presented, delegates were able to create solutions and a fluent debate focused on solving the topics presented.

## **Designing an infographic**

This is a visual and creative representation of information meant to attract readers and let them wanting to learn more. This format should contain more visual context than literal text and should be easy and light to read and interpret. Remember not all delegates are interested in reading a whole article but do like to keep themselves informed about what is going on. The

topic of the committee, countries involved, remarkable quotes, and possible solutions can be included in this visual, but keep it thorough and visually pleasing.

### Characteristics

- Size: If required for an Instagram post
  - Width: 1080 px
  - Height: 1080 px
- Color scheme:
  - Dark blue: #100944
  - Blue: #2B6699
  - Gray: #A6A6A6
  - White: #FFFFFF
- Letter fonts
  - League Spartan
  - Open Sans Extra Bold
  - Open Sans
  - Open Sans Light
- MSMUN stickers
- Useful apps:
  - Canva

### Examples of an infographic

By Hana Takahashi and Paulina Juliao.

# DISEC

Topic #1: The Demilitarization of Outer Space

**Today in the DISEC committee...**

United States: war is inevitable and already present; however, multiple delegations have affirmed that outer space must be only used for future development and research. The main topic of debate is issuing militarization for self-defense and self-preservation.

Delegation of Syria: "We have vowed that we shall not fill space with weapons and mass destruction. Reaching common understanding to minimize threats to national security and space debris."

## Possible Solutions

- Outer Space Treaty
- PPW Treaty: Regulation of weapons
- Reduce space threats through rules of behavior

# LEGAL



## DOCTRINA DE GUERRA PREVENTIVA BAJO EL DERECHO CONSUECUDINARIO Y SU LEGALIDAD FRENTE AL DERECHO INTERNACIONAL

### DÍA 1

Por: Sofia Botero y Manuela Ramos

Durante el tiempo de debate, las delegaciones exclamaron su posición frente al tema discutido en el comité y trabajaron para proponer soluciones.



Como fue establecido por las delegaciones de Francia, Ucrania, Palestina, entre otras, la guerra preventiva puede llegar a ir en contra a la Carta Magna de las Naciones Unidas y el derecho, atentando contra la soberanía de los estados quienes deben trabajar por La Paz .

## POSIBLES SOLUCIONES

En el comité se discutieron las siguientes soluciones para mitigar el mal uso del conflicto y las afectaciones causadas por la guerra preventiva.



"La guerra preventiva es una táctica como cualquier otra, lo que debemos discutir no es como prevenirla, sino como usarla de forma justa y regulada"

-Delegación de Kuwait

-Establecer límites al consejo de seguridad.

-Establecer cómo funcionara la guerra preventiva y la razón de su iniciación.

Velar por que se cumpla y no se desvíe la función de la guerra la cual es cuidar la soberanía de un país.

-Ayuda médica a los civiles afectados por el mal uso del conflicto en la guerra preventiva



Delegaciones tales como Rusia, Estados Unidos y Arabia Saudita apoyan el uso de la guerra preventiva como legítima defensa la cual es parte de la Carta Magna de las Naciones Unidas para proteger la soberanía de los estados.



"No podemos condenar totalmente a la guerra preventiva, si la diplomacia falla los estados deben acudir a su derecho de hacer uso de esta para proteger su soberanía."

-Delegación de Arabia Saudita

## **Recommendations from the chair**

As presidents of the Press and former delegates from this committee, we have some special recommendations for you, delegate. We want to begin with the most important thing which sometimes is undervalued for these projects: reading and studying the guide of the committee you are going to be in. This will give you context, knowledge, and power over your words and the group. Now, to begin with the other ideas, we recommend you talk with the presidents and delegates of your committee during and before the model takes place. In this way, you will learn more about the topics and you will be able to socialize better and feel much more comfortable when the time comes that you have to talk and ask questions. Secondly, we would advise you to actually participate and talk in the debate. Don't be afraid to ask questions to fellow delegates as they are always willing to help with the work that Press does; additionally, remember that you have the power to make the debate flow, so ask and participate without doubting your value. Third, do not forget to use connectors, plan your work, take notes, and write as you feel most comfortable, no matter if this means you will write in Spanish and then translate your writings to English. In the end, the most important things are the quality of the final product and your time management. Finally, we want you to enjoy the model. Even though there is academic work to do, this is a different experience from anything you have done, especially from common academic work in committees, and we deeply believe you should relish every part of it since, in that way, you will do the work with passion and to the best of your abilities.

We hope you found this handbook useful and count on us for whatever you need.

Sofía Sierra - Ana María Rodríguez - Sofía Upegui  
Press Presidents