

## Press Corps

### Welcome

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to BUSUN 2009! I am very excited to be the chair for Press Corps this year, and I hope you will enjoy the conference.

My name is Radhika Kumar, and I will be your chair for the weekend. I am a sophomore at Brown, concentrating in South Asian History. This year will be my first year chairing a committee at BUSUN! I spent Summer 2009 working with BBC Hindi in my hometown, Mumbai.

I am looking forward to the conference weekend, and truly believe that Press Corps is an amazing opportunity for you. It is a very unique position in the conference, and one of the smallest committees to boot. We will be producing completely original work that will be published in the BUSUN Buzz.

I am excited to meet you in November. BUSUN is your chance to participate in all that the conference has to offer, but you should also look at it as a chance to visit Brown and tour the campus. Feel free to contact me via email with any questions before the conference.

Sincerely,

Radhika Kumar  
Press@Busun.net

### History and Background

The United Nations, as a governing body of international importance, is in the news quite regularly. As would be expected with a body of such stature, there are many reporters whose sole assignment is to cover the UN. The 200 or so members of the United Nations Correspondents Association publish stories everyday about the UN and its affiliate agencies and organizations.

The BUSUN Press Corps is tasked with the same duty. As members of this body you will cover the stories that emerge from the debates throughout the conference weekend.

As a member of the Press Corps, you are in a very unique position. Unlike your peers, you will not be giving speeches, you will not be following Parliamentary Procedure, and you will not be debating a fixed set of issues. While all of the other BUSUN delegates will take on a role of a country or of an individual, you will become reporters.

Each edition of the BUSUN Buzz that we produce during the conference will inform all of the delegates of the goings-on in every committee. You will have exclusive access to BUSUN and will have the duty as reporters of the news to write a true and impartial summary of the events.

Your BUSUN Press Pass (yes, you will have authentic BUSUN Press Passes), will get you in the door. It will help you get the facts you need, but it will be up to you to write the story in the end.

This guide will help put you in the reporter mindset, but it is not comprehensive. As further research I suggest that you read newspapers regularly and note the style in which the articles are written. And, if you feel so inclined, try to write yourself. At the end of this guide is a prompt, feel free to email me a sample article in place of position paper. However, remember that position papers are optional at BUSUN.

### The Press Corps Guide

#### The Reporting Process

This must be repeated for every story in the newspaper.

1. Research about your topic: A little background reading is essential so you can know what questions to ask. We will have access to the committee background guides during the conference so you can be informed before entering the committee room.
2. Be an Ace Reporter: We will begin each session with some brainstorming story topics. Then you will go out and research. Your task at this point is to listen, ask questions and note everything you learn. Good, thorough research and notes will help you in the writing process.
3. Write it: This is the stage where you will have to combine your notes to write an article. There are guidelines on the following page to help you write your article in a format appropriate for a newspaper like the BUSUN Buzz.
4. Finalize your draft: This is the stage where you check for any kind of grammatical or typographical errors, and make your writing crisper in general. Ask yourself: Am I being repetitive? Am I drifting from my central theme? Am I telling the reader what they need to know (no more, no less)? Make it informative, yet interesting, and never redundant.
5. Editing: I will go through everything that gets printed with the person who wrote it sitting next to me. You should also encourage each other to edit your pieces, especially if you are writing for entertainment purposes.
6. Compilation: The newspaper is a combination of the efforts of several people. This stage involves the lay-out

of the paper and all of the last minute details that need attention before the deadline.

7. Photocopying and Distribution: The best part! People read what you have written!

### Writing Tips – Things to Keep in Mind

1. Be clear: Remember that the people reading your articles do not have the background information that you do. You need to tell them all the relevant information. When in doubt, include a little explanation instead of leaving things for people to decipher. People want to understand what has happened in a different committee by reading your article; your work should make this possible.
2. Get to the point: Journalism is all about making a statement. Give the most important information in the first part of your article – most people don't read past the first 2 or 3 paragraphs of a newspaper article. People should be informed even if they just read the first sentence. Also, headlines are important. We will work on this together.
3. Stay focused: Throughout your article, try not to get sidetracked into irrelevant data, but to stick to the central theme of your piece. This is sometimes the hardest part, but also extremely essential. Remember that the people reading your article are reading it because they are interested in its theme, not in unnecessary information that might be related to the theme.
4. Be as objective as humanly possible: This is the primary difference between journalism and other forms of writing. Your role as a writer for a newspaper compels you not to take sides, but to be unbiased in your article. This means that in the case of a disagreement in committee, you need to make an effort to understand and record both points of view. In your article, you must not be for or against any country or individual. You cannot endorse one side or the other.
5. Quote!: Always write down things that people say, it's one of the most influential things that journalists do. Quotes will add color to your stories and engage the reader.
6. Keep it snappy: Short is better than long, but make sure you say everything that needs to be said. Since the length of the newspapers will not be very extensive, it is important to write in a precise and condensed way.
7. Keep your sense of humor: Make sure to treat your other Press Corps members well, and to give and take constructive criticism. It will be hard work, but it will be fun too, I promise.

### The Writing Prompt

Find a contemporary issue of international concern (you can read the front page of the newspaper, visit BBC.com, or choose one of the topics that will be debated at BUSUN this year). Read about your chosen topic in at least 3 sources (preferably newspapers or news sites). Then write a news article. Focus on being clear, concise, objective and informative. Make it interesting, but remember that you are writing as if for a news service, and you must be careful when addressing issues that are viewed differently by different countries. Include quotes if possible. Do not exceed 500 words.

When you email me your writing prompt, please include the following information:

Name:

High School:

Grade:

### Annotated Bibliography

“Code of Ethics” <http://www.spj.org/ethicscode.asp>

*A somewhat lengthy and advanced explanation of the journalistic standards that the professionals follow.*

“The Art of Writing News”

<http://www.dailywritingtips.com/the-art-of-writing-news/>

*A straight forward explanation of the news style of writing.*

“The UN Correspondents Association”

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

*The official website of the UNCA, but there is limited information available here.*