



**TARBUTMUN 2020**

**INTERNATIONAL PRESS COMMITTEE**

**President:** Germaine Khebzou

**Moderator:** Yael Lobaton

**Secretary:** Alan Zaga

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**Video Support:** David Newman

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The main responsibility each journalist will have is to report on the main events of TarbutMUN. Each reporter will be assigned a different newspaper or magazine, and he/she will have to rehearse according to its native agency. That means a reporter of *The Guardian* cannot report in the same way a *New York Times* reporter would communicate the information. In order to know your news agency's point of view and styles, you need to be familiarized with some of its journalists, history, and notes.

The reporters need to go to the different committees in TarbutMUN and write a chronicle, an interview, a note, or an opinion. For that, you need to know what topics are being discussed in the committees, and your news agency's position about them.

After you finish each article, you need to edit it to make it look like the portal you are representing wrote it (add pictures, videos, publicity that may appear on the website) and submit it to the chair. You must write one opinion piece and do one video coverage.

## A. Articles

The articles must have over 350 words each, here is a style guide you might want to use:

- **Abbreviations:** No periods may be used for separating letters of an abbreviated organization or committee. Only standard abbreviations may be used.
- **Believe:** Be careful with the use of this word and only use it to cite delegates. Otherwise, try to use *think*, *hold*, *maintain*, *speculate*, *suppose*, *reckon*, *conjecture*.
- **Delegate:** Do not refer to the delegates by their names, rather by the names of the country they are representing.
- **Tense:** When writing a chronicle or a note, always use the past tense.

In order to prepare for the day of TarbutMUN, you will be required to fill out a Newspaper Fact Sheet, this way, you will get to know your newspaper's writing style and history. In the position paper, you will investigate about the topic you will report on, as well as

what your newspaper thinks about it. Read opinion pieces and coverages, as that will prepare you for when you have to write your own article.

### **Elements in an Article:**

All articles need to have the following elements.

1. **Headline:** Needs to be catchy (grab the reader's attention), summarizes the story, might have a larger font size.
2. **Byline:** Writer's name, writer's specialty (for example: sports, food, crime, science reporter)
3. **Placeline:** Where the story takes place.
4. **Lead:** Gives the most important information, answers the 5 "wh" questions
5. **Body:** Gives more information, provides supporting details
6. **Quotations:** Retells, word for word, what someone actually said, adds accuracy.

### **B. Video**

Apart from writing an opinion piece, this year you will also take on the responsibility of doing a video coverage. Throughout the day you will have to collect information, just as you would for the article, except that this time you also need to record clips of the debate, interview the delegates or the moderators (in their free time), introduce us to the topic, give dispatches and your opinions. At the end of the day, together with the rest of the reporters, you will have time to edit and merge all the footage that each recorded individually and present it as a TV news channel. We will not assign you a news network; together all the reporters from the same day will create one and act accordingly to the values that were established as a team, therefore it will have to be consistent in content and ideology. Of course, it has to meet certain requirements, which you will be graded on, both as a team and as an individual.

Individually, you will have to turn in a brief well-researched script. Below are some tips on how to make a video news report and how to write your script.

### **Tips for the video**

1. What is the story? Keep it simple. Think about how you can tell the story while keeping viewers engaged and interested in what you're saying, without making it too complicated.
2. Use the five W's (listed above).
3. Structure: every video will be required to have the following parts:
  - Introduction - This is where you start reporting and explain the story. Do not make it too long, make it precise, and only use the important information.
  - First interview - The first person you talk to and will give his or her opinion on what is happening, and how it affects him or her.
  - Second interview - You need to talk to someone with a different opinion, to show opposing views.
  - Extra shots - Use diverse shots to give the audience an idea on where and how the events are taking place.
  - Conclusion - The reporter should summarize what happened, and give his or her opinion, as well as explain the outcome, if there was one.

Using one location will bore your audience, so make sure you switch angles and use different shots and backgrounds.

## Tips for the Script

1. Be sure to write for the ear: Always read your script out loud, so you can know if an audience will be able to understand it. Unlike an article, the viewers only have one chance to understand what you are saying and what is going on. So make sure you use easy to understand language while giving out just the information the viewers need to understand the story. Limit sentences to 15 words or less because it is easier to understand the idea of the story using simple information.
2. Avoid the passive voice: For example, an active sentence would be, "The robbers sacked the store," as opposed to a passive sentence such as, "The store was sacked by the robbers,"<sup>1</sup> As you can see in the example above, in the viewers need to wait until the end of the line to know who did what.
3. Use present tense as much as you can.
4. Use action verbs: If you can, always avoid words like "is, are, was, and were."
5. Sell the story.
6. Move the story forward: A good TV news story ends telling the audience what will happen next. "The school board will take a vote on whether to cut teachers' pay at its next meeting a week from today,"<sup>2</sup> does not leave the audience hanging and, it forces viewers to tune in next week. If you wrap-up the segment with, "We will be at that meeting and tell you the outcome of the vote," your viewers know your news team is on top of the story.

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<sup>1</sup> Tips for Writing a News Script for TV News. Retrieved from <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-write-a-news-script-for-tv-news-2315281>. October 2019

<sup>2</sup> Tips for Writing a News Script for TV News. Retrieved from <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-write-a-news-script-for-tv-news-2315281>. October 2019

## Further Reading

If you want to read even more tips to make the best out of your news show, you can check out these links:

<https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-write-a-news-script-for-tv-news-2315281>

[https://visihow.com/Write\\_a\\_TV\\_News\\_Script](https://visihow.com/Write_a_TV_News_Script)

### 1. **Introduction:** Summarize the story.

- - **Establish the scene:** Answer the 5 W's. Give out all the basic information so the audience gets a grasp on the story. What is the story all about? Who are the people involved? When did it happen? What date or what time? Where is the setting? Is it a local or international issue?
- **Recognize the issue:** Why did it happen? What is the issue? What factors were involved? How did it happen?
- **Addressing the issue:** Give your opinion and possible solutions to the problem before you dig into it. Tell us what is getting in the way of the solutions. This is where you should show how well researched the story is. Give substantial information.

### 2. **Body**

- Use videos, pictures, voice overs, interviews.

### 3. **Conclusion**

- Temporary solution to the story, or in certain cases, the definitive solution. Do not leave the audience hanging!

## Key Learning Points

### News Report - An example



***"A free press can, of course, be good or bad, but, most certainly without freedom, the press will never be anything but bad." - Albert Camus***

## Sources

Tips for Writing a News Script for TV News. Retrieved from <https://www.thebalancecareers.com/how-to-write-a-news-script-for-tv-news-2315281>. October 2019

Peelschools. Retrieved from <http://schools.peelschools.org/sec/fletchersmeadow/studentlife/OSSLTprep/Documents/Elements%20of%20an%20news%20report.pdf>. October 2019

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