

A stylized map of the Americas, showing North and South America in white against a dark blue background.

XXVI

Summit of the Americas
Summit of the Americas

Ecuador

Press Corps

Committee Bulletin

Gabriella Sedaka Gordon, Chair
Emilia Cabrera, Director of English Committees



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Welcome to HACIA XXVI

Esteemed HACIA delegates,

It is my deepest honor to welcome you to HACIA XXVI, the very first of its kind. I am Emilia Cabrera, your Director of English Committees, and I am incredibly excited to be your first welcome to this unique conference. I can assure you that our team of English committee chairs has worked tirelessly to prepare these topics and train hard to lead an online committee, all to ensure the best caliber of debate for HACIA XXVI.

To first tell you a bit about myself, I was born in Madrid, Spain but grew up in the United States. I became involved with Model United Nations in high school to further explore my growing interest in international relations. There, I found a space where I could seriously engage in some of the world's most difficult problems and meet other multicultural people who shared my values despite different backgrounds. I'm also passionate about the power of language as a tool for bridging differences, which brought me to my interest in Latin America. At Harvard, I am a senior studying Computer Science and Economics, and have dedicated my extracurricular time to International Relations through HACIA and Model UN.

At this year's HACIA, you will prepare, debate, write, and resolve topics that span not only different themes – economic, political, and social – but also time itself. In the OAS Permanent Council, you will get to explore two sides of a dangerous coin, drug trafficking and human rights violations in prisons. You may get to go back in time and witness – or tamper with – the writing of Mexico's Constitution, or ameliorate the dramatic effects of the 80s debt crisis. If instead you want to look into our future, you can help protect the Amazon rainforest as it gets further threatened into extinction by 2030. Whatever it is that ignites your passion, be that health, human rights, or economics, you will find your place in one of our topics, diligently fighting to make our region and world a better place.

As delegates you will be implored to practice empathy in taking on the views of the governments and people you're asked to represent. In adopting the roles of different countries and people, some of you may be faced with defending positions that go against your own opinions. Take this as an opportunity to deepen your own understanding of a topic and learn the rebuttals and defenses that may be employed by the other side. HACIA is an incredible opportunity to push yourself to grow as a writer and public speaker, but more importantly as a global citizen and future leader.

This year's HACIA will serve to challenge you to engage with some of the most pressing issues of the Americas, and the world beyond. All of this and more you will do in the face of potentially the most global problem we have ever faced: this international pandemic. Just as the diplomatic world has been forced to reckon with how international relations can be preserved and even strengthened without face to face relationships, we must too strive to do the same thing in HACIA. Despite the physical distance, we believe that a conference of listening and discussing international problems across a multitude of countries will allow us to feel just how interconnected these problems are. We've also been undergoing extensive training to ensure our staff is more than prepared to lead online committee sessions, in a smooth transition from the debate that you may have done in the past. Thank you for inviting HACIA and its delegates into your countries and your homes.

Sincerely,
Emilia Cabrera
Director of English Committees

Board of Directors

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From your Chair

Dear Delegates,

Welcome to HACIA 2021! My name is Gabriella Gordon and I am so excited to serve as your Director for the Press Corps and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs). This committee is by far the most interesting and exciting I have participated in. We will be talking about the issues of each committee and making sure that delegates are well informed about the progress being made in each session. I cannot wait for the opportunity to get to know all of you and hope that our shared enthusiasm for Latin American affairs will make for an amazing experience for everyone.

I was born and raised in Miami to Jamaican and Guyanese immigrants, so I grew up surrounded and immersed in Latin American affairs. Miami, being the multicultural city it is, has exposed me to people hailing from every country apart of the Organization for American States, and the unique political climates of the various nations in the regions.

With the economic development of Latin America being my academic and professional focus, I chose to concentrate in Economics in order to study Latin America more indepthly from an economic perspective. In college, I've explored the origins and making of much of the Americas, and how current challenges stem from actions taken in the past, believing firmly in the maxim that "those who don't learn from the past are doomed to repeat it". Besides economic development, my interests lie in immigration, human rights, and gender equality. That being said, I'm always open to expanding my knowledge of the world around me.

I am also very much interested in the field of political media. So when it comes to the Press Corps it is not only important to have good writing skills, but a sense of mobility and desire to know more. In and throughout committee meetings, I want to look for creative ways in which you use your news making abilities to influence the direction of the committee.

How do you do that? By interacting with other delegates, or writing a scathing piece about a vaguely worded resolution that does little to address the situation at hand. In sum, expose, ask and press for details. If you operate in this mindset, you will be successful in committee and create thought provoking content that can help you in future conferences to come.

I look forward to seeing you all in committee and having a fun weekend filled with exciting topics of discussion. Please do not hesitate to contact me with any sort of questions or concerns. I am always available as a resource and am happy to help. I wish you the best of luck in your preparation.

Best Wishes,

Gabriella Sedaka Gordon
Director of the Press Corps & Non-Governmental Organizations
Harvard Association Cultivating Inter-American Democracy XXVI

Topic:

Press Corps

Introduction

The Press Corps committee seeks to emulate the experience of journalists from around the world who attend international summits. Each of you will be assigned a Spanish or Latin American news outlet from which to report on the events of HACIA Democracy. You will be responsible for telling the public all about what goes on at the conference, from the point of view of your source.

This year, HACIA Democracy aims to publish a printed magazine with your article, whereas in the past they were posted online. Therefore, you will have the unique opportunity to see your articles printed out in a tangible format. The magazines will also give everyone at the conference the chance to stay informed about what goes on during the debate and more. Since each of you is assigned a different news agency, being a Press Corps delegate requires a lot of individual responsibility. It is your duty to research your news source before the conference, and to write articles truthfully and submit them on time. This committee is the most fast-paced and dynamic in nature (as well as the only bilingual one!), so you should take this as an opportunity to think outside the box and get exciting and juicy news from wherever you can. You and other committee members will often be seen running around the halls of the conference space, going from room to room, talking to delegates from every country and committee, and trying to find the latest chisme.

While participating in this committee may be a lot of fun, remember that it is not always so for real journalists, especially in Latin America. I highly encourage you to read up on censorship practices in your news source's country and the horrifying ends that some truth-seeking journalists find at the hands of criminals. On

that somber note, do not forget that your role in this conference carries great responsibility, and that you should always be honest and try to decry injustice. Do not hesitate to ask for help in doing your job, either.

At HACIA Democracy 2019, delegates will represent the following sources: El País, from Spain; Clarín from Argentina; BuzzFeed Spain; El Diario from Bolivia; El Universal from Mexico; El Espectador from Colombia. Your articles, written in the style of each source, will be published in HACIA's magazine.



Requirements

For each committee session, you will be required to create several pieces. First, you must write two articles. At least one has to be written in English. Your second article can be written in English, Spanish, or Portuguese. It will not be sufficient to simply translate your article; you have to write two different articles so that we can cover a diverse range of topics. Next, you should accompany each article with a photograph. Try to create interesting photos, so that a picture does truly speak a thousand words. For each committee session, you will be required to do a piece in addition to the two articles.

You will curate a Twitter post (I will create them beforehand with login information provided at the conference) in the style of your news source's account, with a unique image and accompanying text. You could also make a news graphic, video report, interview, blog post, or even a meme. This third assignment is meant to bring out the best in your creative skills and encourage you to try something new, as well as result in the creation of cool media for the rest of participants to learn from.

We will all meet in the committee room at the beginning of each committee session. There, we will go over your requirements, including deadlines, for the session. Unless you are writing or editing in the committee room, you should be collecting information for your work, whether it is from other delegates, directors, or committees.

Sometimes you will have to run press conferences or break news. It is important that you take advantage of committee sessions to do your work, since you will have strict deadlines and limited time. If you need help, come find me or one of your Assistant Chairs.



Before the Conference

Be Ready: Come ready to do your job. Make sure to know your news source and have ideas for articles or other projects. You should have a laptop for writing, and a cell phone or camera to take pictures.

Get to Know Your News Source: If you're not from the same country as the news source, it may be hard to figure out what its general stance is. The best way to find out is by going straight to the source. Read the agency's articles and see what kind of language they use, how they describe leaders from different political parties, or what issues they focus on. Compare your source to other newspapers from the country, or even the world. Additionally, try to see what kinds of editorials they publish. Are they consistent with one line of thought? Finally, it could be helpful to read the comments section or look online for public opinion on the source. Be careful, though, because these opinions can be very biased.

Writing Your Articles

Attached below are two articles with comments to help guide you in your writing throughout committee. Please feel free to email me with any questions or concerns.

CBS NEWS: [Warren releases plan to tackle gun violence on heels of deadly mass shootings \(08.10.19\)](#)

Sen. Elizabeth Warren on Saturday released an ambitious plan to combat gun violence that combines executive orders and congressional action with the aim of reducing gun deaths by 80%.

A good introduction should be able to summarize everything that is going on in one or two sentences.

The plan comes amid renewed calls for gun control one week after mass shootings in El Paso, Texas, and Dayton, Ohio, that left more than 30 dead.

Warren released the plan shortly before joining the majority of other Democratic candidates at the Iowa Gun Sense forum in Des Moines. Although Warren's Medium page lists dozens of posts about policy proposes, the plan proposed Saturday is her first full plan to tackle gun violence.

Context, context, context - you want to frame your article in the time and place that it happened. In the case of Warren's gun violence plan, you would want to include that this plan comes in the aftermath of the El Paso and Dayton shootings.

*In **your** case, be attentive to the dynamics between delegates and different blocs. If there's tension, report it. If there's unanimity among delegates, report it. Make sure that it is integral to the story you are telling the audience.*

If you are reporting on a crisis committee, it is more than likely that you will write on events that did not happen historically, so make sure that you understand and summarize key developments in your readers understand why an action is occurring in the first place.

Warren joined other candidates earlier this week in blaming President Trump's divisive rhetoric for inspiring the El Paso shooting suspect, and on Friday, she called on Walmart to stop selling guns. But until Saturday, gun control and health care stood as the largest issues Warren hadn't addressed with a detailed plan.

You may want to include details that weren't so important to include in the beginning as you go deeper into the article. If you were critiquing a resolution - this is where you begin - by highlighting something that's missing

"I come to you I know with these latest shootings in El Paso and Dayton, at a time of sorrow in our country, but at a time of real determination," Warren said at the gun safety forum.

Warren said that as president, she would first take executive action for immediate measures like background checks. Then, she'd push forward her anti-corruption plans to push the National Rifle Association's (NRA) influence out of Washington. Finally, Warren has about two dozen measures that she'd propose to Congress.

Quoting is important, as you go from committee to committee you need to be attentive to the delegate's speeches. It may be tedious, but you never know what may happen...

"It's the most comprehensive of any plan that I've seen from the candidates ... It's not one thing that needs to be done to stop gun violence in America. It's a multi-pronged approach," said Kris Brown, president of the Brady Campaign to Prevent Gun Violence.

Warren admitted the plan might not be enough to hit the 80% goal, which she said is meant to mirror the 80% reduction in per-mile driving deaths over the past 50 years.

"We might not know how to get all the way there yet. But we'll start by implementing solutions that we believe will work," Warren wrote in a Medium post.

It's always good to include direct quotes from the source, it adds additional context and can be helpful in telling readers what they are thinking

Like Sens. Cory Booker, Kamala Harris and Mayor Pete Buttigieg, Warren wants a federal requirement that every gun owner undergo training and get a license.

When writing about resolutions, you want to see if there are any striking differences and hot topic clauses that contribute to the flow of debate. In the case of the gun control debate - the author here writes that Warren shares very, very similar policy prescriptions with her other colleagues.

Warren also proposed preventing people from buying more than one firearm a month and to increase the waiting period for purchases to one week. She also said she would push Congress to allow gun violence survivors to seek compensation from manufactures and deals who act negligently. The plan also calls for an assault weapons ban.

Warren is one of the leading progressives on most issues in the 2020 race. But when it comes to getting AR-15s and other AK-style rifles out of people's hands, she didn't go as far as former Rep. Beto O'Rourke of Texas, who said this week that he was open to instituting a mandatory gun buyback plan, or former candidate Rep. Eric Swalwell, who promised to deliver it.

Instead, Warren said she would ask Congress to essentially tax the ownership of assault rifles out of existence using the National Firearms Act the way the Roosevelt administration did with machine guns.

While other candidates have fallen and leapt forward in polls over the past few months, Warren has had a slow and steady climb in the polls toward frontrunner and former Vice President Joe Biden.

Voters increasingly support gun reform legislation. A Politico/Morning Consult poll found Wednesday that most Republicans and Democrats support one.

But Congress hasn't passed meaningful gun legislation in a quarter century. Her campaign said the strength of her plan is that it fits into her larger plan of taking on corporate influence in Washington.

When writing about a resolution, the main question of any committee is whether or not it will pass. When talking about debate - you want to assess the viability of a resolution, taking note of the dynamics of the room, background information, quotes, and context. A good article should also look at & include the chances of a resolution passing, and how other delegates feel about it.

"She'll pass her anti-corruption legislation and eliminate the filibuster in order to break the hold of the NRA and pass gun legislation in her first 100 days," said campaign spokesperson Saloni Sharma.

A second article is included to illustrate how one should write about a new directive or draft resolution.

WALL STREET JOURNAL: [Iran's Sanctions Ends Deal Takes Effect](#) (1.16.16)

VIENNA—July's nuclear deal between Iran and six world powers came into effect Saturday evening, triggering an end to years of sweeping economic and financial sanctions on the Islamic Republic over its nuclear work.

In a joint statement, the European Union and Iran said many of the nuclear-related U.S., EU and United Nations sanctions were immediately coming off Iran after it had completed the steps needed to implement July's deal.

The U.N. atomic agency minutes earlier confirmed it had issued a report verifying that Iran carried out those steps, which significantly scale back its nuclear infrastructure.

"The EU has confirmed that the legal framework providing for the lifting of its nuclear-related economic and financial sanctions is effective. The United States today is ceasing the application of its nuclear-related statutory sanctions on Iran," said EU foreign policy chief Federica Mogherini, reading the joint statement.

"All sides remain firmly convinced that this historic deal is both strong and fair, and that it meets the requirements of all; its proper implementation will be a key contribution to improved regional and international peace, stability and security.

Under July's deal, Iran's nuclear activities will be severely constrained and remain under strict oversight for the next decade, but Tehran will then be able to scale up its production of nuclear fuel.

U.S. Secretary of State John Kerry heralded the implementation, saying Iran "honored its commitments to dismantle much of its nuclear program" and that the U.S. and the EU "will immediately lift nuclear-related sanctions."

He also praised the release, announced earlier in the day, of U.S. prisoners held in Iran. Those Americans "should be on their way home," Mr. Kerry said.

Critics of the deal have said that could allow Iran to easily move to the brink of nuclear-weapons production after a decade. They also fear the economic windfall Tehran will receive from the deal will bolster its support for the Assad regime in Syria and for its other proxies in the region, like Lebanese Shiite group Hezbollah.

House Speaker Paul Ryan (R., Wis.) said Saturday that with the nuclear deal delivering a cash infusion to the Iranian government and Tehran recently carrying out ballistic missile tests and detaining U.S. sailors, congressional opposition to the Iran deal will remain strong.

“A bipartisan majority in the House voted to reject this deal in the first place, and we will continue to do everything possible to prevent a nuclear Iran,” he said in a statement.

Iran has always denied it worked on nuclear weapons, although the U.N. atomic agency concluded in December it had done so until 2009.

“#ImplementationDay—I thank God for this blessing & bow to the greatness of the patient nation of Iran. Congrats on this glorious victory!” Iranian President Hassan Rouhani said on an English-language Twitter account controlled by his office.

Among the steps Iran had to take to trigger July’s deal were removing thousands of uranium-enrichment centrifuges that can manufacture nuclear fuel, taking out the reactor core at its Arak plutonium facility near Tehran and sending out of the country its stockpile of nuclear fuel.

Those steps, according to Western experts, mean that it would take Iran at least one year to make enough nuclear fuel for an atomic bomb.

[Tweet By Hassan Rouhani, President of Iran](#)

@HassanRouhani: #ImplementationDay--I thank God for this blessing & bow to the greatness of the patient nation of Iran. Congrats on this glorious victory!

The agency said Mr. Amano will visit Iran on Sunday to meet President Rouhani and other top officials to start discussions on the IAEA’s monitoring of the nuclear deal.

The IAEA will have a crucial role in overseeing the accord’s implementation. One issue is whether it is able to ensure access to all sites in Iran, including military locations, if it has suspicions of illicit activities there. Iranian leaders have bristled at the idea that the agency will get access to sensitive sites.

Under the U.S.-led agreement, most nuclear-related sanctions will be removed, reopening international markets to hundreds of thousands of barrels of Iranian oil and returning billions of dollars in frozen oil money to Iran.

The EU will drop its energy embargo on Iran, and international banks will be able to re-establish ties with the Iranian central bank and other firms. Restrictions on Iranian shipping, transport and other business will end,

although U.S. terrorist and human-rights sanctions on Iran will stay in effect, meaning U.S. firms and Americans will face significant restrictions on how they conduct business with Iran.

In total, some 550 firms and people will be dropped from the EU, U.S. and U.N. sanctions list.

Iran will also remain under an arms ban and be prohibited from transferring ballistic missiles and other nuclear-related materials. Firms controlled by Iran's Revolutionary Guards will also remain under sanctions. Many business and government officials say it could therefore take months or even years for Tehran to fully gain the benefits of the July nuclear deal.

The implementation of the deal came as Iran freed four Iranian-American prisoners in a swap with the U.S., including Washington Post correspondent Jason Rezaian. In exchange, the Obama administration agreed to release seven Iranian nationals who were either jailed in the U.S. or facing charges.

U.K. Foreign Secretary Philip Hammond said, "there were many skeptics who said Iran would never deliver on its side of the bargain," but that Mr. Rouhani's government had done so.

"The U.K. has played a central role, and I hope British businesses seize the opportunities available to them through the phased lifting of sanctions on Iran. The future is as important as the landmark we've reached today," he said.

July's deal was negotiated between Iran and six powers: the U.S., the U.K., France, Germany, Russia and China.

More Advice on Writing

So, you know you're supposed to write and act like a real journalist, but how? Here are some guidelines for writing your articles. As always, don't hesitate to ask questions.

Types of Articles

During the conference, you will be asked to write two articles which can take the shape in the following types of articles.

1. Expository Article: This is essentially a summary of what has gone on in the committee session, based on your notes and observations. This type of article should be general and not dwell too much on specific quotes or actions, unless they are very important. While this can be a very standard article, try to not bore the reader. In this kind of article, you should appear very neutral, though you can subtly try to express your source's point of view by using certain words or highlighting certain moments.

2. Editorial: This kind of article expresses the view of the newspaper's staff and is therefore consistent. If you criticize a country or political party in ne editorial, you probably would in another, too. Always stick to your source's perspective. You should use persuasive language and still lean on facts, even if it's not an expository article.

3. Profile: A profile is a write-up after an interview. While you are interviewing people, make sure to take notes. You may also find it helpful to record the interview. Although this type of article stems from an interview, it should still have a narrative structure with embedded quotes. Make sure to take notes not just on the person's words, but on everything else as well. Do they make certain gestures or change facial expressions? Are you conducting the interview in a space that is relevant to the topic of the profile?

One of the Golden Rules is to make the reader connect with the text.

The Journalism Code

Worldwide, journalists are in charge of holding politicians and other public figures accountable. That means you have to be honest and report facts to the public. Write in an honest way, and never use work that is not your own. That will make you lose credibility both as a writer and as a delegate of HACIA 2019. It takes special skill to be truthful while sticking to your news source's line, and I trust that you will find that balance. Something else that is important in journalism is avoiding conflict of interest. That means you shouldn't write about issues that you are personally involved with. In the context of this conference, that means you should avoid articles about your delegation. For example, don't do a profile on one of your friends who is participating in HACIA.

How to Make Your Article More "Journalistic"

Read many newspapers to become familiar with the format. First, let the readers know the essentials of your article. Inform them of the who, what, where, when and why in the first paragraph, if not the first sentences. These are basic facts and should not be infused with opinion. As mentioned later in an article, you can include embedded quotes and more general information. It can be helpful to refer to past events leading up to the one you are writing about. When you are writing about a person, make sure you get their name and last name. After you have named them once, you may refer to them only by their last name, unless they are frequently talked about in some other way.

For example, Madonna will always be referred to as Madonna. In journalistic writing, paragraphs are often short to give the readers room to breathe. Additionally, keep your

articles under 500 words. You will be doing a lot of writing, so you don't want to get stuck on every article. Report what needs to be said, and move on if you are pleased with what you have done.

As always, respect spelling and the conventions in that language. For English, use the Oxford or Merriam-Webster dictionary. When writing in Spanish, refer to the *Real Academia Española*. Every Latin American country should have its own Real Academia and dictionary, if you have doubts about regional expressions.

Make Use of Technology

You're lucky that you get to be a journalist in the 21st century. Use spell check on your computer, and look up any doubts, especially when it comes to writing conventions. Google Drive is your ally, whether it comes to making charts, collaborating on articles or creating graphics. Don't forget to put extra thought into any images that you use to accompany your articles.

Position Papers

To make sure that you are ready for the conference and to offer you advice on writing skills, the Press Corps requires that you write two position papers. This is simply to get you warmed up, and should not be a source of stress.

1. Write an article of 300-500 words about a current political issue in the country you are from:

Although it may be hard to stick to your agency's point of view because this issue is close to you, this is a great exercise to make sure you stick with your source. As a journalist, you have to leave aside your own views.

2. Write a profile of 300 words on one of your friends or family members: You can ask them about their life, their personal preferences, or anything that comes up. Although it may sound like an informal assignment, this can be a difficult task. You have to learn to flesh out any topic into an interesting, fully developed article. One of these articles must be in English and the other in Spanish, in order to mimic the conference. It's up to you to choose which is which. Please submit these on time so that we may respond with comments as quickly as possible.



Submitting Articles

You will probably find it helpful to use Google Drive when writing your articles, which makes it easier to share and comment on articles. Please share your articles with my email address by the established date. If you have made a different type of content, such as an Instagram post, it may be shared in a different way. Just ask me about submitting your content if you have any questions.

Press Conferences

Although you may not get to participate in debates like other delegates, you do have the exciting opportunity to hold press conferences. I will coordinate conference assignments, and then give you information on which committees you will be covering. Committee chairs will also provide you with last-minute information that you may need. Remember to plan well for your conference, so that you can ask good questions during and write about it after. The other delegates will be able to tell if you are unprepared, and you will enjoy the experience more if you come in knowing what to do.

Ask probing, provocative questions that are straight to the point. Make sure the issues you bring up are in line with your news source. And don't forget to take notes on everything that is said. This will be a great chance to think on your feet and see what it's truly like to be a member of the press.

Closing Remarks and Research Recommendations

Though it may seem overwhelming at first, I assure you that once in committee, you will find that this is a worthwhile and fun experience. I truly cannot wait to welcome you to HACIA 2021.

I do want everyone to have a good experience but in order to do so please come to the conference well-prepared. Our committee staff and I will do my best to plan fun activities for you while staying organized and on track. I am always available by email for anything you need, I cannot stress enough how important it is to reach out if you have any questions or wish to give input about the committee.

Again, I want to emphasize that you don't need to have experience writing articles, you just have to enjoy reading interesting reports that are often better than fiction.

Until conference commences, please familiarize yourselves with the journalism practices outlined —the delegates are counting on you to expose the truth.

I look forward to hearing from you and answering any questions you may have, so until then, feel free to reach out.

Best Wishes,

Gabriella Sedaka Gordon

Director of the Press Corps and Non-Governmental Organizations

Harvard Association Cultivating Inter-American Democracy 2021