

Committee: News and Media

Topics: Modern Terrorism and Natural Disasters

News and Media

Hello, delegates! I am Ruslana Yurtyn, and I will be your head chair for our MVHS MUN 2018 conference. I am a junior, and this is my third year of MUN. Apart from MUN, I am involved in Key Club, CSF, and NHS. Outside of school, I dance and have been doing so for the past 14 years. As of this year, I have participated in 12 years of Nutcracker Ballet Performances. I am so excited to have the exciting opportunity to chair the News and Media Committee and look forward to enjoying an amazing committee session with you. If you have any questions, please email me at mvhsmunnews@gmail.com.

- *Delegates will be in tri delegations representing a news channel instead of a country.*
- *Every delegate is a journalist from said channel and their job is to interview witnesses and create formidable press releases in the form of articles and on air broadcast during committee.*
- *In place of speeches, there will be a presentation of gathered information from witnesses; most of committee will consist of interviews and caucus.*
- *Journalists will have the opportunity to interview witnesses that are presented to gain information for their articles*
- *When interviewing witnesses of an event, different journalists must compete for the chance to ask questions against the other agency representatives.*
- *Position papers should consist of a background on events relating to the topics at hand and other possible current events happening at the time. Points will be awarded based on the relevance, breadth, and detailedness of the information presented. Position papers should also include opinions of the agency represented and possible views on said events.*
- *Events to report on will happen in committee and will require an ability to think and write on the spot*
- *Expect the Unexpected*
- *Developments in committee can happen at any time, and journalists should be ready to report on any event*

Channel Positions:

Fox News: Fox News will most likely exaggerate an event and tends to retain a more conservative view point. Prone to over dramatization, Fox will take an aggressive stance on an issue. Fox news values the fact that the US is economically and politically invested in certain nations and its own well being. Fox should praise military, economic, and political intervention and US involvement in foreign affairs and denounce neutrality. Fox News will most likely highlight success in efforts made by the republican standing in the US government. This channel will seek to create controversy regarding the more liberal views on pouring money and time into solving various issues. Fox will remain content with current actions taken by political cabinet in the various day to day issues plaguing the US and other nations.

CNN: CNN will under stress the issue and tends to lean toward a liberal view. In an attempt to remain considerate, CNN is likely to underestimate the magnitude of the issue. CNN will likely speak against foreign involvement, maintaining an isolated and neutral model. CNN is very thorough, looking at several aspects of the issue, rather than just personal stories. CNN will demonstrate a leaning view in favor of humanitarian aid with emphasis on domestic duty to aid others with no regard to cost and difficulty. This channel will most likely take the chance to criticize any faults in Republican policy. It will stress the need for immediate action.

NBC: NBC will act as a balance between CNN and Fox News. NBC though still leaning on the liberal side of media will likely maintain fairly neutral views and will praise successes, rather than focusing on the negative outcomes. NBC is prone to rely on witness statements in its journal articles. They are reluctant to jump to conclusions that could be dangerous for the company, so instead focus more on personal stories and accounts. will act as a more neutral channel in terms of political views but will still report on intricate truthful details of an event regardless of political backlash. Like any US based news channel it will compete for attention by undermining or highlighting notable moments and actions of an event.

BBC: The BBC displays less investment in foreign affairs. If an issue is foreign, the BBC will address it, but will avoid saying anything controversial. Instead the BBC will report with a less eccentric viewpoint. News will be news but will not focus on dramatization of events in an attempt to seek viewership. Focus will be directed towards domestic affairs rather than international news. The BBC will not hesitate to condemn the people at fault and highlight successes of those deserving, but will not skip to any unexplainable conclusions. The BBC will focus on the issues at hand and act as a valuable source of media opinion putting forth opinions of experts and educated personnel as possible solutions.

RT: RT has very strong views relating to Russian Politics. RT will not hesitate to condemn the accused, and is likely to jump to conclusions. Prone to exaggerate minute details, RT has the ability to create controversy where there may be none at all. RT will reuse details that have already been stated far more times than necessary, just to prove a point. Regarding issues that occur far from Russia, RT will remain fairly neutral. The channel may also take the opportunity to criticize the faults of the US government and its power. RT will mirror Russian political views being more friendly towards the events unfolding in the demographic of its trade partners and allies. RT offers a view on events that can be wholly different and sometimes contradictory to those of Western media outlets. Though they can be controversial their alternate views may uncover aspects of an event or story which may have remained unseen or disregarded.

Topic to Consider: Modern Terrorism

I. Background

Various forms of terrorism plague the world today. Terrorist groups and attacks threaten citizens from all parts of the world. From bombings to assassinations, the extent damage terrorist attacks can cause is endless. Over the past 50 years, the frequency of terrorist attacks has gone up resulting in more deaths each year. Statistics indicate that up to 11,000 people have been killed in over 18,000 attacks. Groups such as Al-Qaeda, ISIS, Taliban, Boko Haram, the Klu Klux Klan, and more have exerted numerous attacks in recent years. One such attack is the Paris attack claimed by ISIS. This attack occurred on November 13th of 2015, killing 130 people and injuring around 300.

One expanding form of modern terrorism is cyberterrorism. Our development as a society comes with its drawbacks. One of the ever growing mediums these people use to communicate their motives is technology such as computers. After the September 11th attacks, many theorized that cyberterrorism would be one of the new ways terrorists may strike. Some speculate that cyber attacks could shut down nuclear power plants or destroy power grids, as well as many other disasters. The first display of cyber terrorism occurred in 1988, when a computer worm spread across the United States rendering every computer it came across useless. The creator of this worm was the first person in the United States to be tried under the laws of the computer fraud and abuse act. In December of 2006, NASA had their plans for space projects stolen by an unknown country. Technologically advanced countries have understood that cyber security tactics should be developed and improved, and many have taken initiative to protect against cyber attacks. Today, cyber terrorism can take its form in computer worms, distributed denial of service attacks, and viruses.

In modern society, news agencies hold the important position of bringing relevant information to citizens of the world. The various opinions of different news agencies bring to light contrasting viewpoints in an issue. Based on the origin of the news agency, their views will differ. Take into account the country that the agency is from. News agencies have the power to spread their opinions freely to people with little resistance. People will usually believe news agencies whether their information is true or not. They are the first to report on breaking news and the first to circulate information to other countries.

II. Questions to Consider

1. How much influence do your news agencies have in forming people's opinions?
2. What are some ways to sway your readers' opinions or to successfully spread your ideas?
3. What are your news agency's political views on both domestic and global terrorism?
4. Does your agency have any bias relating to a certain demographic?
5. How does your bias or lack of bias affect articles and on-air reports?

III. Possible Witnesses

- People directly affected by terrorist attacks
- State officials
- Members of the Military
- Representatives of certain political groups or activist groups
- Experts of Counter-terrorism Strategies

Topic to Consider: Natural Disasters

I. Background

A natural disaster is a major adverse event resulting from natural processes of the Earth. Large disasters can affect huge numbers of people, leaving cities in ruins. Recent events have unfolded in the Eastern Hemisphere involving various hurricanes of considerable size and intensity. The US as well as its territory Puerto Rico have been severely affected by these events and have been in the wake of trying to recoup resources, count losses, and begin reconstruction. Though Texas, which was subject to ravaging by hurricane Harvey, has been swift in rebuilding, Puerto Rico due to its geography has suffered more severe damages and has been less speedy in its recovery. In Puerto Rico on the evening on September 20, 2017, Hurricane Maria- a Category 5 storm that hit the island with winds over 150 mph and deadly rainfall and flooding- created the most dire of effects for the Puerto Rican people. The island, an unincorporated territory of the United States located in the northeast Caribbean Sea and home to 3.4 million US citizens, was in immediate danger as Maria made landfall and took a disastrous path that bisected the island from the Southeast to the Northwest. The aftermath of Maria's destruction is still significantly pervasive months after the storm. Of the many Caribbean nations devastated by Maria's path of destruction, many officials declare the dire conditions in Puerto Rico to a full-blown humanitarian crisis as nearly all of the 3.4 million residents need assistance recovering from the storm. More is likely to develop as time goes on.

Natural Disasters can happen at **ANY** moment thus the media must be prepared to gather and supply constantly updating info on upcoming events.

II. Questions to Consider

1. Would your news agency focus more on humanitarian aid or political effects of natural disasters?
2. Would your agency seek to name a cause for a disaster in an attempt at gaining more attention? Climate change etc..
3. How would your agency react to other possible disasters?
4. If a disaster happened in another area such as Asia or Europe how would stance change?

IV. Possible Witnesses

- Those directly affected by the disaster
- Families of those directly affected by the disaster
- Government representatives
- Disaster relief volunteers
- Climate change experts and researchers
- Tornado chasers (those cool dudes with the trucks that drive into tornados)