



# PRESS CORPS

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## COMMITTEE BULLETIN

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# Welcome Letter from Director of English Committees

Welcome delegates!

My name is Mayte Cruz and I am the current director of English Committees. My debate journey began in 2021 in OAS Special Mission, continued through to 2022 in the Press Corps committee, directed the same committee in 2023, and now have the honor to serve in the board of directors of the congress.

DALE will be an experience that allows you to immerse yourself in two days of rich conferences, a place for you to voice your ideas, and a platform that will impulse you into your future. Regardless of the committee that you choose, you will leave DALE with a sense of excellence and accomplishment. Delegates that dedicate themselves to their research and the congress as a whole are the ones who most often grow throughout this conference. I encourage you to give this experience all you have and dedicate your time to truly make this an enriching learning experience for you.

On a personal note, DALE has broadened my horizons to so many different opportunities and perspectives that have been platforms for new ideas. I am confident that it can do the same for you, too. I am open to any questions or concerns you may have leading up to the conference, so do not hesitate to contact me! Thank you for joining the DALE XI family, and see you at Camino Real!

Best of luck,

Mayte Cruz ([macruz@ans.edu.ni](mailto:macruz@ans.edu.ni))  
Director of English Committees

## **WELCOME LETTERS FROM CO-DIRECTORS**

Hello, dear delegates! It is a pleasure for us to welcome you to the Press Corps committee for DALE's XI conference. First of all, we are excited to have critical and authentic individuals participating in this unique committee. In a changing and developing world like ours, the Press has taken an essential role in our society, the art of informing, shaping, and influencing the audience. Unlike other committees, Press Corps offers the unique opportunity to enhance your analytical and communication skills. Here, the power words have the potential to shape the course of events and create a great impact on our society, shaping and influencing perspectives. We strongly believe that the press is now part of our daily life and that it is what gives us the right to express ourselves. Press is democracy, democracy is freedom.

We look forward to an enriching experience at DALE. We believe that your distinguished participation in the Press Corps will not only contribute to leaving a remarkable legacy at the conference but also an invaluable contribution to your personal growth. We thank you for your interest in this committee and we hope you enjoy this conference. Wishing you all the best!

**“Journalist: a person without any ideas but with an ability to express them; a writer whose skill is improved by a deadline: the more time he has, the worse he writes.” - Karl Kraus**

Sincerely,

Jacques Ruiz and Gloria Gonzalez

Directors of Press Corps.

## INTRODUCTION TO PRESS CORPS

In this committee, delegates will be responsible for reporting on the events taking place in various committees during the two days of DALE. Each delegate will be assigned to a news agency based on their preferred language for writing and will act as a real reporter, covering the global discussions happening in these committees. Delegates should always keep an open mind about different ways to share information and be ready to overcome any challenges that may arise. This committee will help delegates develop and improve their thinking, communication, research, self-management, and social skills.

## DESCRIPTION OF THIS COMMITTEE

Press Corps is a committee that allows delegates to express their creativity and innovative thinking when reporting on the various things taking place during DALE. Delegates will write **4 articles in total, 2 for each day of the conference**. The first three articles are to be written individually and delegates are expected to adhere to the recommended structure and perspective of their agencies. These three articles may cover a wide range of topics, including crises, committee events, interviews with DALE staff or delegates, etc. If a delegate wishes to cover a topic outside of these parameters, they must inform the chairs for approval. The fourth and final article will be a collaborative work among agency representatives, and it can address any subject within reasonable bounds and course to DALE. They will have a time constraint and they must work effectively together to make the best possible product they can come up with. Further information about this last article is under the *GROUP ARTICLE ACTIVITY* section of the bulletin

Crisis is a well-known and anticipated part of DALE, and Press Corps works in close collaboration with them. Whenever there is a crisis, delegates will be alerted and will decide whether to go and report or continue working on their current tasks. Delegates do not have to write an article for every crisis, as they may also opt for other alternatives such as recording a quick video and posting it on stories or making a short post about it. Once again, use creative and effective strategies!

As Press Corps, we highly encourage delegates to write argumentative, coherent, and persuasive articles portraying the events taking place within the committees. Your position must be clear, and you may also include your opinion, however, delegates must be open-minded and respect different opinions, ideas, and perspectives. Failure to comply with this guideline may result in consequences such as the deduction of points.

To ensure the accuracy of the articles and avoid spreading misinformation. Delegates must look for external sources of information to provide historical, political, personal, or legal background. Every single source of information used for supporting your article must be cited in MLA format. If it is not cited, it will count as plagiarism for not giving credit.

We strongly encourage delegates to think innovatively and creatively and to continue exploring new methods of reporting on events. We hope delegates will experiment with various forms of media to make the best and make the most of their DALE experience. Be unique, be professional, and give more than your hundred percent. **Your authenticity will make you shine among others!**

## **WORK OF THE DELEGATES IN THE COMMITTEE**

During the two days of the conference, Press Corps delegates are responsible for informing the public about the different events and topics going on in the debates. The committees in DALE model the real organizations they represent, therefore delegates must present their stance formally and professionally. Delegates will be assigned a news agency (based on the language they prefer). By the start of the conference, they are expected to be familiar with the general structure of the articles, their style, and their positions. Through this, delegates should be able to stay true to their agencies and make this experience as realistic as possible. Delegates will also be expected to be familiar with the topics that will be discussed in the other committees, be acquainted with other social media platforms, and follow the general rules of the conference.

## **RULES TO BE FOLLOWED**

1. All work must be individual, and sources should be cited in MLA Format. Points will be deducted if sources are not cited correctly.
2. Plagiarism is not tolerated by Press Corps or DALE as an organization. If plagiarism is detected in the articles, there will be consequences that include disqualification from awards.
3. Delegates should not start the conference with pre-written articles.
4. Only articles written during the conference will be taken into consideration for scoring.
5. Delegates must respect deadlines. No extra time will be given unless delegates provide a valid excuse.

6. If a delegate wishes to interview a debater, they must request the interview to the directors of Press Corps who will contact the chairs of the interviewee's committee.
7. Delegates must never interrupt an ongoing debate
8. Content published on the official Press Corps Instagram account must be relevant and appropriate to the conference and assigned news agency. Posting inappropriate content can lead to disqualification.
9. Follow the core values of integrity, responsibility, accountability, tolerance, and respect.
10. Delegates are free to share videos, podcasts, and images relevant to the conference.
11. All other forms of media should be approved by the chairs.
12. Delegates are expected to follow the style and perspectives of their assigned news agency.

### **Extra Time Policy**

Additional time will only be granted under certain circumstances, such as a medical emergency. When extra time is needed, the amount of time allotted will be determined by the chairs, based on a fair and objective reason and the practicality of the extension. To request additional time, delegates must submit a formal request to the chairs, who will then make a decision. Articles not submitted within the stipulated time frame will not qualify for the full 100 points. Depending on the extent of lateness and the specific circumstances, points may be deducted.



## **Use of Instagram During the Conference**

From the first day of the conference up until the submission of their last article, delegates will be given access to the Press Corps Instagram account. We trust delegates with the responsibility of using this platform professionally — having access to this account is a privilege. It is prohibited by the directors to post memes or any content that is not relevant to the conference and news agency. This platform must be used purposefully, each post should be dedicated to informing or promoting articles. If the account is not used responsibly, their access will be revoked and they will be disqualified.

Delegates are to create a highlight with the name of their news agency and their logo to sort their stories, so that the chairs can keep track of which stories are theirs. Delegates must also sign off each post with their agency and name. Effective use of social media will be taken into consideration for final scores and awards.

## **ACTIVITIES DURING THE CONFERENCE**

Delegates will undertake the pivotal role of journalists throughout the conference and will have the privilege to select the committees they will be visiting. At the beginning of each day, delegates will choose their preferred committees, requesting them with the chairs. The committees will then be assigned. Delegates must have constant communication with the chairs, as we must be informed of where delegates are throughout the conference. Delegates will visit from 2 to 4 per day and have the right to return to any committee if needed. They will also be notified about crises, as it is encouraged that they report on them, interview delegations, and even base their articles on these events.

## GENERAL ARTICLE STRUCTURE

As mentioned before, each day, delegates will write 2 articles with a total of 4 articles throughout the conference. Articles must have a minimum of 300 words with a maximum of 550 words. Every document needs to be uploaded to the delegate's folder, with the header including their agency's logo, their name, the date, and time, all written in Times New Roman 12 (with the exception of the title and subtitle, which are left up to the discretion of the delegate). On the first day, the first article will be due at noon while the second article will be due before the departure time. On the second day, it all remains the same, except for the second article, which must be submitted two hours before the closing ceremony.

Articles must start with a striking title, an introduction that includes a hook, background information, and introduces the situation. It also includes body paragraphs, where you may include facts, quotes from the delegations, statistics, etc., a discussion of opposing arguments, and a conclusion giving information about how the situation is going or how it ended, as well as predictions. Within the articles, it is encouraged to include photos and a striking template. Delegates must always cite information or images using the MLA format to avoid plagiarism. It is crucial to consider your agency's perspective, whether it's more conservative or liberal, and what the agency typically reports on.

Delegates must bring their computers along with their phones or cameras and the chargers for each of these devices. **For this time, you will also be allowed to bring extra material such as a microphone, tripod, etc. to record interviews or videos of the debates. You can even create your accessories, BE CREATIVE!** As previously stated, late work will not be accepted unless there is a valid reason and a request has been submitted to the chairs. In general, delegates are expected to work professionally and respect deadlines.

## USE OF EXTRA TOOLS

Get ready for an XI conference that resonates with innovation and distinctiveness! To enhance your experience and truly immerse yourself as a representative of a news agency, we encourage you to bring additional materials that can assist you on this marvelous journey. Consider items such as microphones, tripods, earphones, lamps, and any tool that can elevate your participation and make this experience feel real. Feel free to even craft your own tools and amplify this event with your unique touch. **In the Press Corps, there are no limits!**

## GROUP ARTICLE ACTIVITY

We will bring back, for the third year, the union of agencies activity. The last article of the conference will be written by groups of 3-5 delegates, depending on how many people are on the committee. Since this is a group activity, the minimum word count will be 600.

Delegates are expected to cover multiple perspectives and work under pressure with others, putting into practice collaboration, responsibility, and accountability skills. All delegates must contribute to their group's articles and come up with creative ways of presenting them. Though the central pillar of this activity is collaboration, delegates must look for ways to stand out in the article. In regards to Instagram usage, while the delegates are teamed up, they must sign off their posts with the news agencies and names of the delegates in the group. It is up to each delegate to use this activity to their advantage.

## ESSAY CONTEST

**Theme:** “The solution is not to take Africans and bring them to Europe, the solution is to free Africa from certain Europeans who exploit it.” - Giorgia Meloni

For years, Africa has been a victim of the exploitation of Natural Resources. Giorgia Meloni, willing to protect Italy from migration, has been a vocal critic of France’s pre-colonial system, alleging them to still exploit the natural resources of 14 African countries, members of the **CFA franc zone** (African Financial Community). Meloni argues that this exploitation is a significant factor that explains Africa’s underdevelopment and the ongoing issue of illegal migration in Europe. She contends that the solution lies in freeing Africa from these exploiters. The “colonial tax”, amounting to about \$500 billion, equal to 85% of the former colonies' annual income, the exploitation of natural resources such as gold and uranium, and the imposition of the CFA franc currency that allows France to extend their monetary control over 14 African countries, are some highly questionable France actions on the region. All this has provoked a supporting movement to Russia and an anti-French movement in several African countries, giving rise to political unrest, such as the **coup d'état in Niger**. What does France say about it? Do you think Africa will ever reach its complete sovereignty? What would these countries be like if this system had never been imposed? What about armed groups? What’s the relation with Russia? Do you agree with Giorgia Meloni?

*"They've exploited all the riches of my country such as uranium, petrol, and gold. The poorest Nigeriens are unable to eat three times a day because of France." - Nigerien*

### **Guidelines of Contest:**

- Word count: 800-1,000 words
- Permitted format: MLA
- Header must include:
  - Delegate's name
  - School name
  - Date
  - Email address
  - Committee

**Send your PDF to [jruiz@notredame.edu.ni](mailto:jruiz@notredame.edu.ni)**

### **ART CONTEST**

**Theme:** Climate Change: The beginning of global boiling

“The era of global warming has ended; the era of global boiling has arrived.” - António Guterres

July of 2023 has been recorded as the hottest month in the past 120,000 years (“July 2023 is the hottest month ever recorded | United Nations”). With multiple record-breaking temperatures around the world having been recorded in the summer of 2023, the United Nations is worried that we have entered a period of irreversible extreme weather patterns. The concept of global boiling reflects the transition from global warming, towards a more severe period of droughts, heatwaves, and climate-related disasters. This phenomenon is largely a result of a dangerous amount of greenhouse gases being emitted into the atmosphere. Research published in 2022

shows that sea level rise is accelerating and is projected to rise a foot by 2050 as a result of extreme temperatures (Lindsey). Over 11 arctic species are at risk of extinction due to rapidly melting ice and rising sea levels (“11 Arctic species affected by climate change | WWF”). In the face of disaster unfolding before our eyes, there is no more time for excuses or hesitancy to save humanity from the harsh reality of climate change.

**Guidelines of Contest:**

- Submit a PDF titled: Delegate Name - Title of Artwork - Committee, and include a 150-200 word description of your artwork.
- 2D and 3D creations are accepted.
- Digital artwork is accepted.
- Submit one art piece per delegate.
- Videos are not allowed.
- 2D work: Minimum 20x20cm and maximum 40x50cm.
- 3D work: Minimum 20x20x20cm and maximum 40x40x40cm.

**Send a good quality image of your art piece, along with a 150-200 word description of your artwork to [ggonzalez@ans.edu.ni](mailto:ggonzalez@ans.edu.ni).**

**If you have any questions about the essay or art contests, please contact [ggonzalez@ans.edu.ni](mailto:ggonzalez@ans.edu.ni) or [jruiz@notredame.edu.ni](mailto:jruiz@notredame.edu.ni).**

## **IMPORTANCE OF JOURNALISM IN DALE**

We believe that the ability to express ourselves as well as formulate our own opinions is a foundational part of any community. Journalism creates a global “awareness” among human beings. Journalistic writing and reporting push readers to develop a deeper understanding of the world around them, enabling them to become proactive individuals in this rapidly changing world.

DALE models current issues and events, making Press Corps a complementary tool for the creation of well-informed leaders. Through this committee, we can maintain the pillars of expression through media and reinforce the value of analyzing issues that affect the nations of our region.

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Overall comments: Great job! This is a well written bulletin with all the information your delegates need to know. I would say this is pretty much ready to go on the website! If anything, I would encourage you to check it over yourselves and check for anything you would like to improve.