Why Press Corps: Understanding the Benefits and Differences

Why Press Corps is Important
The press is an essential element of democracy and reveals a diversity of perspectives. Worldwide, the press serves as the primary link between the United Nations and the global population. Similarly to how the press functions in the world we live in, MMUN’s Press Corps is responsible for maintaining this link between the delegates and actions of their committees. Finally, given the vital role of the press in the work of the United Nations, the freedom of the press is a necessary civil liberty. Without widespread respect and awareness of this freedom, the work of the press becomes far more difficult.

Which Students Should Choose Press Corps?
Do you have students who like to write, research, interview others or volunteer to do newsletters? Group negotiations during committee session can be a vulnerable place to share ideas and make your voice heard. The Press Corps allows students with strong verbal skills, who communicate best through writing, a chance to shine.

How Different is Preparation for Press Corps?
The press corps preparatory work is similar to general delegate preparation. It is based upon the same general UN research and the conference specific topic research. The press corps students then focus on understanding their chosen news outlet’s positions by reviewing their online websites:

- the viewership
- “specialties” that your news organization heralds (e.g. Finance, Politics)
- the global perception of your news organization
- past major stories that have been award-winning or notable
- whether your news organization is a member of a coalition of news sources (e.g. Associated Press)

This work comes together in the creation of their editorial, which represents a proficient understanding of the topic and the relevant position of their news agency. These editorials, like position papers, must be submitted for approval by the bureau.

Benefits to Students
Students will find Press Corps at MMUN a great venue to improve their language skills, explore the field of journalism, and take part in a new way to experience a conference. As reporters, the students are guided to critically analyze what is being said in committees, discuss the issues in their briefing rooms, determine the facts, and to uncover the real issues in negotiations. Reporters are encouraged to ask tough questions to expose the hidden, and pursue the story. In short, the Press Corps offers a completely new lens to view the world and how it communicates.