



2nd SESSION OF THE 50th OKLAHOMA INTERCOLLEGIATE LEGISLATURE

TASNEEM “TAZ” AL-MICHAEL

Press Secretary

Dear Delegates and Journalists,

Welcome to the Press Corp! From November 14th to November 18th, 2018, you will be attending a model legislature that will be consisting of intense debate, discussions about policy, deliberation over the future and integrity of our state, and be surrounded by future leaders devoted to public service. The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature is the nation’s largest mock legislature that is planned, executed and attended by college students from all over the great state of Oklahoma. OIL gathers over two hundred students together at the State Capitol with the purpose of promoting political efficacy in Oklahoma’s next generation of leaders.

The Press Corp is an entity within the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature that reports articles and features on the affairs of the organization during the competition. The Corp serves as an integral position communicating the portrayal of the competition and news throughout the day. In a challenging process, journalists will compete to publish the best news and coverage for high-quality reporting.

The Press Corp is also the embodiment of the Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature’s commitment to the framers’ enshrinement of free and protected speech of the first amendment and is vital to the health of the future of our state and country. At the end of the competition, the *Press Secretary*, *Lieutenant Governor*, and *Attorney General* award competitors for the best political reporting. The *Press Secretary* ensures that correspondents have the ability to seek answers from officials, all the way up to the Governor. You’ll find the rules and regulations to the competition below. Thank you for your interest and participation!

May the best journalist win.



A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Taz A." with a stylized flourish at the end.

Signed: **TASNEEM AL-MICHAEL**



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COMPETITION GUIDE

Duties of the Press Secretary relating to the competition:

- Emailing and issuing press releases to ALL members of the competition throughout the day.
- Holding press briefings to assist the Corp creating and exploring robust and investigative articles throughout the competition.
- Publishing articles and media of the journalists on *OIL Reporter*, a blog-writing platform.
- Engaging delegates with the *Remind* system with day-to-day operations and announcements relayed by the Governor and the executive branch.
- Printing and distributing stories each morning to delegates in each chamber.
- Issuing major announcements and releases on Twitter¹, Facebook², and the website³ with the Director of Technology.
- Acting as a liaison between the branches of government and the journalists.
- ALL delegates are free to ask questions to the Press Secretary at any time.

Competition Rules (mandatory minimums):

1. Write 2-4 articles (350-500 words each) per day regarding different elements of the competition.
2. At least 1 article must be on a piece of legislation (per day).
3. At least 1 article must be on op-ed⁴ on policy (per day).
4. Copy must be written to be professional in context⁵. Story telling is important, as a writer you may have a particular writing style but stick to consistency.
5. Articles must be submitted to the Press Secretary each night by 10:30pm at the latest. Note: Journalists will be submitting articles throughout the day. This is not an incentive to submit at the last minute (Wednesday-Saturday). The Press Secretary will finish proofing articles and features by 11pm in order to print and distribute stories to delegates in the morning. Sunday will have a different structure that will be announced the Saturday evening of the competition.

Journalist Privileges:

1. Freely going to the House, the Senate, and the Moot Court for observations.
2. Placing “Press Information Requests” – A google form/application will open for specific press requests to get one-on-ones with delegates, leadership, and executives.
3. Custom press badges.
4. Press briefings with inside knowledge not open to every delegate.

Cont.d

¹ @okoil1969

² Facebook Secret Group – Request Access from a delegate or the Director of Technology

³ Okoil.org

⁴ Opinion Editorial – This may be on legislation, Moot Court, attorney general opinions, vetoes, etc.

⁵ Copy or words. This rule is to ensure the articles are using elevated language and are authentic in nature.



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Tips for Journalists:

1. Attend the press briefings at 8:30 every morning. They begin promptly at 8:35. With the addition of floor leaders and assistant floor leaders at the beginning of competition, you will receive the first round on questions for legislation and predict how they might fare.
2. Take pictures. Photojournalism will play an important part of the competition. This will be an important aspect of the portrayal of the competition. You can also take *videos* too.
3. Become well-versed in Mason's and Robert's rules of order. There are differences between the two. Incredible things can happen if you can account for them.
4. Establish relationships with delegates. They are an excellent source for the climate of the room and listen in on the caucuses.
5. "Quote" and cite⁶ your delegates.
6. Do supplemental research on the moot court cases and the bill packets. Relevant research earns you attention.
7. WRITE MORE THAN 4 ARTICLES A DAY. Competitors that go above and beyond will get a higher chance to win.
8. Become a journalist of influence. The Press Secretary will be making rounds to see how everyone is doing.
9. AP STYLE WILL GET YOU MORE ATTENTION FROM THE PRESS SECRETARY.

Types of Articles:

1. The **News Feature**: this article highlights an specific topic and dives deep into the details of the individual story during the competition. Sample topics include: legislation, moot court argument cases, Attorney General opinions, vetoes etc.
2. **Opinion Editorials**: A journalist's opposing or supporting opinion on a particular subject. Ex: a piece of legislation appears that may agree with that reaches controversy within the chamber. The journalist can write about the benefits or negatives to the legislation and as to why the journalist would support it. This form of article is very similar to a "letter-to-the-editor".
3. **Research**: This particular form relates to in-depth research that a piece of legislation or court-participant argument can be made. Even if the legislation doesn't pass or the competitors argument becomes moot, the journalist will write on the repercussions, violations, or effects it may have to the community.
4. **Profile piece**: This is a **new** element of the competition. Journalists are allowed to interview and write pieces on individual delegates or leadership (in each branch of the competition). The "Press Information Request" will function to get interview time. Constructive criticism is 100% welcome.
5. The **Spot-Feature**: Breaking News! Controversial or amazing things can happen during the competition that can be capitalized on.
6. The **Listicle**: If you have ever seen any "Top 10" articles then you probably understand sources like BuzzFeed. These articles can be used for filler and can be a source of entertainment. However, please ensure it relates to the competition.

⁶ <https://www.dictionary.com/browse/cite>



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Examples of good reporting:

1. Catherine Sweeney: The Journal Record – News Feature - https://drive.google.com/file/d/1XvtaJQjWpT_5d-zN5bNFod3FBjlmrdop/view
2. Justin Wingerter: The Oklahoman – News Feature - <https://newsok.com/article/5609775/oklahoma-tribes-and-prominent-politicians-side-with-creeks-in-reservation-case-at-the-supreme-court>
3. Trey Savage: NonDoc – Research/Op-ed- <https://nondoc.com/2018/07/09/high-price-of-oil-shaping-oklahoma-politics/>
4. Laura Eastes: Oklahoman Gazzette – Profile - <https://www.okgazette.com/oklahoma/okc-mayor-elect-david-holts-job-begins-april-10-but-planning-for-leading-the-city-through-the-next-four-years-is-well-underway/Content?oid=2993255>



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Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature
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Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature Prepares for 50th Fall Session

OKLAHOMA CITY, OK. - From November 14th to November 18th, 2018 over two-hundred students will congregate at the Oklahoma State Capitol to participate in the nation’s largest intercollegiate model legislature. Hosted in Oklahoma City, delegates from 15 universities and colleges will convene for multiple competitions relating to debating legislation in a bicameral legislature, a moot court competition ran by O.I.L. judicial branch, and a journalism competition reporting robust media on the competition as a whole.

The competition is run by the organization’s executive branch. The Honorable Gabrielle Hosek serves as the Governor of the organization and the head of the executive branch. Recently, the organization has made overhauls in leadership. The Governor appointed Matti Betts (Oklahoma State University) to the Director of Fundraising and Tasneem Al-Michael (University of Oklahoma) to the office of Press Secretary.

The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature is a 501(c)3 organization under the O.I.L. Foundation. For more information regarding the organization, competition, or press inquiries contact the press secretary or visit Okoil.org.

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The Oklahoma Intercollegiate Legislature (O.I.L.) is a student-run mock government that replicates all three branches of the state government of Oklahoma.

Founded under the administration of former Governor George Nigh and now in its fiftieth year, O.I.L. provides students from institutions of higher learning across the state an opportunity to write, debate, and pass legislation about the issues they believe are important.

Besides the mock legislature, O.I.L. also contains a mock executive branch, moot court, and press corp. Any student interested in politics, law, or government process will find networking opportunities, experiences, and friends at O.I.L.