



The YDS Writers' Group

What is the YDS Writers' Group?

The YDS Writers' Group is a new initiative by the Young Diplomats Society that seeks to provide regular writing opportunities for talented young people interested in international affairs. The Facebook group is run by the YDS Publications Team, who will regularly pitch article ideas and assign articles to interested writers.

How does it work?

The YDS Publications Team will regularly pitch article ideas to group members each week. The pitch will detail the preferred length of the article, the topic, a deadline for the first draft and some news reports to get you started.

From these pitches, members of the group can choose when they would like to take up an article. It is our intention to pitch between 1-5 articles a week, so we encourage you to set up notification alerts to ensure you don't miss out on a topic of your interest.

To claim an article, comment on the Facebook post stating your interest (e.g. something simple and informal like, "I'd love to write about that", or "me please"). We mostly work on a 'first come, first served' basis, however, to ensure equal opportunity, there may be exceptions to this.

Once you have stated your interest, a member of the YDS Publications Team will contact you via email (and by replying to your comment) to get the process started. If you are unsuccessful in claiming an article, there will be plenty more opportunities to write through the Group. Alternatively, you could pitch your own article idea to us at: submissions@theyoungdiplomats.com

Why should I consider joining?

The Young Diplomats Society is dedicated to elevating the voices of young people and to helping people like you get a competitive edge in a competitive field.

We are an increasingly reputable and well-connected not-for-profit organisation. We have hosted some big names in international affairs including, Gareth Evans AC QC, Tim Costello AO, Julian Burnside AO QC, and Justice Tony Pagone QC among others.

Our executive team spans across Australia. Between us, our team has claimed work opportunities at the Global Centre for the Responsibility to Protect in New York, the Melbourne Consular Corps, Young Australians in International Affairs, the Sri Lankan Consulate General, the Australian Institute of International Affairs, the Coalition for the International Criminal Court and the United States Consulate in Sydney.

As a member of the YDS Writers' Group, we will offer you:

- Frequent opportunities to write for our growing organisation and to have your voice heard by our readership
- Access to a team of highly professional and experienced editors who are dedicated to helping you develop your skills as a writer
- Promotion of you and your published work through our social media channels, including Facebook, Instagram, LinkedIn and Twitter
- Networking opportunities with like-minded young people, our YDS team, and your peers within the Writers' Group
- Alerts to our upcoming events, special editions, writing competitions, membership opportunities, and recruitment drives

What will be expected of me?

As a member of the YDS Writers' Group, you must comply with our Facebook Group rules (these are available at the end of this document).

Should you successfully claim a pitch, we expect that you:

- Will comply to our publishing guidelines including word length, deadlines, references, and style. These guidelines will be clarified upon your successful claim to a pitch
- Will be cooperative with our publications team by responding promptly to emails and respectfully to feedback
- Will be openly communicative when you have questions or require deadline extensions or assistance

Our Writers' Group is invitation only to give ample opportunities to writers within the group. Should you no longer wish to be part of the Group, or wish to take a hiatus, please let us know so that we can continue to offer Group membership to new people.

How do I get involved?

To get involved, please send a CV and writing sample to editor@theyoungdiplomats.com. You will then be contacted by a member of our Publications Team who may offer you an email invitation to join the group. If you are successful, you will be emailed a link to the Facebook group and will be accepted as a member when you request entry and agree to our Group Rules.

If your application is unsuccessful, remember you can always send us pitches and drafts through our submissions inbox (submissions@theyoungdiplomats.com).

If you have any questions about this process or anything related to the YDS Writers' Group, please email: editor@theyoungdiplomats.com

Some Tips

For those offered an invitation, we have some tips to help you make the most of your membership in the Group:

1. Consider your schedule and when you may have more, or less, time to dedicate to writing an article. In weeks where you are more free, we recommend you be extra vigilant to give yourself the best chance of claiming an article
 2. Consider each pitch individually, what interests you and where your strengths lie. The demands of each pitch will be different – there will be opportunities for longer pieces, opinion pieces, book reviews, and contributions to special editions
 3. Be an active member of the group – talk to us about your ideas, ask questions, interact with other members, and congratulate one another on your work
 4. Keep an eye out for YDS events to continue your networking and development as a young person in international relations
 5. Don't wait for us – if you have an article idea, let us know and we can help you publish it outside the group. Email your idea to: submissions@theyoungdiplomats.com
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The YDS Writers' Group Rules

1. **Be kind and courteous** - We're all in this together to create a welcoming environment. We want this group to be encouraging, safe and useful. Let's build each other up and treat everyone with respect.
2. **No hate speech or bullying** - Bullying of any kind isn't allowed, and degrading comments about things such as race, religion, culture, sexual orientation, gender or identity will not be tolerated.
3. **Respect YDS' privacy** - What we discuss in this group, including upcoming articles, events and opportunities should be treated as privileged information and should not be shared.
4. **Respect each other's privacy** - We acknowledge that a Facebook group is not the most professional method of communication and that many members' Facebook profiles may not be intended for professional networking. For this reason, we ask that you do not make professional impressions of the people in this group by their Facebook content.
5. **No promotions or spam** - This group is for the purposes of YDS only. Give more to this group than you take. Self-promotion spam and irrelevant content is not allowed.
6. **External communication with members** - You are not required or encouraged to send friend requests to other members of this group. Communication that happens between members external to the group page is not the responsibility of YDS and should not be expected to be monitored or overseen by the YDS Publications Team.
7. **Communication with the YDS Team** - All communication regarding article pitches and the editorial process will happen either by replying to comments on the Facebook homepage, or via email. There will be no direct Facebook messages with members of the group from the Publications Team.
8. **Concerns, Queries and Complaints** - Please address any concerns, queries or complaints to editor@theyoungdiplomats.com. If you have an issue with any member of the group, please come to us first.

If you have any questions about these group rules or have any suggestions about how we could make our YDS Writers' Group a safe and productive space, please let us know at: victoria.cooper@theyoungdiplomats.com