



The Jaipuria Times

"Veritas in Atramento" — Truth in Ink

MECHANISM & PLATFORM GUIDE

A Faculty Handbook

Everything a first-time faculty needs — the game's inner mechanics and the platform's working, written for a reader who has never seen the app or heard of propaganda techniques.

In one line: Propaganda Wars is a fake-news gym. Students practise spotting manipulation and answering it in writing, under time and scoring pressure, with an AI acting as the editor-in-chief who grades them.

`pwars.tryrehearsal.ai`

1. What is Propaganda Wars?

Propaganda Wars is a browser-based, single-player media-literacy simulation. The student steps into the role of the incoming editor of a fictional newspaper — The Jaipuria Times — that is being out-published by a rival broadsheet, The Daily Contrarian. Over three editions (rounds), the rival releases an article laced with well-known propaganda techniques.

Across each round the student must:

- Detect which propaganda techniques the rival used.
- Write a counter-editorial that rebuts the manipulation and restores public trust.
- Watch the sentiment meter — the game's proxy for "did the public believe you or the rival?".

One full session lasts 15–25 minutes. Students may play unlimited sessions; the grade faculty see is the average across all sessions, not the best.

2. Why we built it (the pedagogy)

- Media literacy is a survival skill. Students consume slanted content daily. Passive lectures on "bias" don't stick — active recognition does.
- Writing is the assessment. The counter-editorial forces the student to argue, not just recognise. Argumentation reveals real comprehension.
- AI-assisted, not AI-graded blindly. Gemini drafts the rival's article and scores writing against a public rubric, but every score is reviewable and every editorial is stored verbatim.
- Repetition + variation. Career, SDG, industries and ideology are picked by the student each session, so no two rival articles are the same.

3. The 8 Propaganda Techniques (Glossary)

These are the eight classical techniques the rival paper draws from. Students must spot which are present in each article.

Technique	How it works
Bandwagon	"Everyone is already doing it — join or be left behind." False consensus.
Fear Appeal	Warns of catastrophe (crime, ruin, disease) to override reason.
Glittering Generality	Vague virtuous words ("freedom", "progress") with no substance.
Name-Calling	Loaded labels ("radicals", "traitors") instead of arguments.
Plain Folks	Speaker dressed as an ordinary person to imply shared values.
Testimonial	Celebrity or expert endorsement used as proof of a claim.
Card Stacking	Only supporting facts shown; contradictory evidence hidden.

Technique	How it works
Transfer	Borrowed authority from a respected symbol (flag, science, religion).

4. Full Gameplay Flow, Screen by Screen

1. Landing — masthead, brief, "Start a new edition" button.
2. Career — reporting lens (Investigative, Business, Tech, Sports, Political, Culture). Shapes tone.
3. SDG Focus — one UN Sustainable Development Goal. Shapes the topic space.
4. Industries — up to three industries the story touches. Shapes specifics.
5. Ideology — the editorial stance the student's paper writes from. Shapes the counter-editorial's angle.
6. Rounds 1 → 3 — each round has three phases: Analysis (tick the techniques you detect), Writing (counter-editorial, paste disabled), Stop Press (sentiment meter animates).
7. Reveal — rubric breakdown, per-round scores, editor's qualitative notes, AI-authorship verdict.

The student's press badge stays pinned to the right of every gameplay screen so they never lose track of who they are in the fiction.

5. Scoring: What Earns Marks, What Loses Them

Each round produces four sub-signals that combine into the round's score, then all three rounds combine into the final rubric.

Signal	Earns marks when...	Loses marks when...
Detection	Correct techniques ticked, no false positives.	Missed techniques, or ticked ones not present.
Editorial quality	Coherent argument that addresses rival's specific claims.	Off-topic or generic. Gibberish → auto 0.
Sentiment shift	Detection + writing move the meter toward truth.	Weak answers move it toward the rival.
Depth of engagement	Iteration, reflection, critical use of AI.	All rounds feel identical or perfunctory.

Floor rule: a genuine attempt that completes all three rounds always scores $\geq 1/10$. A flat 0 is reserved for aborted, empty or all-gibberish sessions.

6. The Final 10-mark Rubric

The rubric is holistic — it grades the whole session, not each round separately.

Component	Marks	What we look for
Depth of Engagement	/ 5	Iterations, prompts, reflection, critical use of AI across three rounds.

Component	Marks	What we look for
Clarity & Insight	/ 5	Framing, arguments, pros/cons, essay-readiness of counter-editorials.
Total	/ 10	Bands: Exceeds $\geq 70\%$ · Meets 35–70% · Below $< 35\%$.

Aggregation: the dashboard ranks students by the average of `rubric_total` across all their sessions. The best single run is shown separately as a tiebreaker.

7. How the Platform Actually Works

Written for readers who have never seen the codebase — the key ideas only.

- One website, three roles. The same URL serves students, faculty (mentors) and admins. What you see depends on your role.
- Sign-up needs an access code + a Jaipuria email. Roll numbers and emails are unique. Email confirmation is mandatory before playing.
- Every session is logged. Career, SDG, industries, ideology, all three editorials, detections, AI rubric, AI-authorship verdict and the qualitative editor note are stored as a row in the game database.
- Row-level security. A student sees only their own history; a mentor sees only their mentees; only Editors-in-Chief and above see across faculties or campuses.
- Grades are re-computed on the fly. The dashboard averages rubric scores each time it is opened, so a student who plays more always sees an updated average.

8. The AI Judge & Anti-Cheat Systems

Three layers of intelligence sit behind the scoring — treat them as indicative, not infallible:

1. Rival article generator. Google Gemini writes each round's rival article live, seeded by the student's chosen career + SDG + industries + ideology. That is why no two sessions read the same.
2. Rubric grader. Gemini re-reads all three editorials against the 10-mark rubric and returns the two component scores plus a qualitative editor's note. A gibberish floor hard-caps nonsense to 0 before the AI ever sees it.
3. AI-authorship check. Gemini classifies each editorial as Human, Mixed signals or Likely AI-assisted, with a confidence % and a one-line reason per round. Shown to faculty as a coloured badge (green / amber / red).

Anti-cheat surface (deterrent, not fortress):

- Paste, copy, cut and right-click are disabled on the reflection and counter-editorial inputs.
- Drag-and-drop into those inputs is blocked.
- The AI-authorship check gives faculty a second opinion on suspiciously fluent prose.

Honest caveat: the AI check is a discussion prompt, not a verdict. Faculty always have the last word — any score can be overridden after opening the session report.

9. Running Your First Session (Step-by-Step)

1. Get your access code. Ask any admin (Group Editorial Director or Consulting Editor — Tech) for the current teacher access code.
2. Sign up as faculty. Site → Sign in / Sign up → Faculty tab → Jaipuria email, name, teacher code. Confirm the email link.
3. Get the student access code from the same admin.
4. 15 minutes before class: click through one demo round yourself so you know the flow.
5. In class (10-min setup): project the Student Playbook URL, walk through the eight techniques for 2 minutes, give the student access code verbally, and let them sign up.
6. Homework: ask for at least 3 sessions per student. Remind them the grade is the average, not the best.
7. Grading day: open your dashboard → Evaluations tab. Click a mentee to drill into any single session.

10. The Faculty Dashboard, Tab by Tab

- Evaluations — primary view. Name, roll no, sessions played, avg rubric /10, avg qualitative feedback, AI-check verdict. Click Open sessions to drill in.
- Top Performers — same dataset, ranked by average rubric.
- Faculty-wise Overview — averages grouped by mentor (admins see all).
- Campus Summary — network-wide rollups. Visible only to Group Editorial Director, Editors-in-Chief and Consulting Editor — Tech.
- Student dossier — every session as a card: date, career, SDG, industries, per-round scores. Click to open the full session report with editorials, marking sheet, editor notes and AI-authorship section.

Row-level security in action: if you don't see a colleague's students, that is by design. Managing Editors see only their mentees; Editors-in-Chief and above see across faculties.

11. Troubleshooting & FAQ

Q. A student didn't receive the confirmation email.

A. Check spam. If missing, sign up again with the same email — Supabase resends. If still missing, an admin can mark them confirmed manually.

Q. A student typed the wrong roll number or email.

A. Only an admin (Shiva or Gourab) can correct the profile. Do NOT create a duplicate account — roll number and email are unique.

Q. Can I reset a student's password?

A. Students reset their own via the 'Forgot password' link. A reset email is sent only if the address is already registered.

Q. Why doesn't my dashboard show another faculty's students?

A. By design. Managing Editors see only their mentees. Editors-in-Chief and above see across faculties.

Q. A score looks too low or too high — can I override it?

A. Yes. Open the session report; the AI score is a starting point, your judgement is final.

Q. Can students retake?

A. Unlimited sessions. The grade is the average of all completed sessions.

Q. The AI check says 'Likely AI-assisted' — is that proof?

A. No. Treat it as a discussion prompt. Ask the student to walk through their reasoning.

Q. What if a student writes gibberish?

A. A heuristic gibberish floor caps that round at 0 before the AI ever grades it.

Q. Where do students go for help?

A. They email ailabs@jaipuria.ac.in and CC their faculty + gourab.chatterjee@jaipuria.ac.in with the mandatory subject format.