

Proposal #890

Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: ANDREA GROVE AND CHRIS SCHOLL

DEPARTMENT: POLS

ACTIVITY TITLE: MODEL UN

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 16-19 Nov 2017; 15-18 FEB AND 20-24 APRIL 2018

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at david.daniels@csuci.edu within 30 days after the activity. Thank you for your commitment to engaging our students!

A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
- (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
- (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
- (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
- (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
- (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
- (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
- 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

B. ATTENDEE LIST- SUPPORTING DOCUMENT:

In addition to the report form, *in a separate document,* attach to your email a list of attendees complete with each student major and grade level. This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website. Include your name and the title of your IRA activity on the document.

C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:

Finally, attach to your email up to 6 images demonstrating student participation (under 2 MB total) with captions/titles. Please attach these photos in .JPEG format directly to email. Thank you!



(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;

WE ATTENDED 3 MODEL UN CONFERENCES IN WHICH STUDENTS ENGAGE IN NEGOTIATIONS WITH DELEGATES FROM OTHER UNIVERSITIES REPRESENTING OTHER COUNTRIES. EACH STUDENT IS ASSIGNED A COUNTRY ON A PARTICULAR COMMITTEE, AND THE ISSUES THE COMMITTEE DEBATES ARE POSTED MONTHS PRIOR TO THE CONFERENCE. STUDENTS RESEARCH THEIR COUNTRY POSITIONS AND TURN IN PAPERS; THESE PROVIDE THE STUDENTS WITH BACKGROUND TO ENGAGE IN THE CONFERENCES.

(2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?

THE WORK AT THE CONFERENCE GIVES THE STUDENT A CHANCE TO USE THEIR RESEARCH CONDUCTED FOR POLS 427: MODEL UNITED NATIONS; ACTIVE LEARNING TECHNIQUES SUCH AS THIS CONSTITUTE HIGH-IMPACT TEACHING PRACTICES.

(3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?

STUDENTS GO DEEPER INTO ISSUES AND ARGUMENTS AS THEY ENGAGE IN MUN. THEY COME AWAY WITH A MUCH MORE SIGNIFICANT UNDERSTANDING OF GLOBAL DEBATES AND GLOBAL ISSUES, AS WELL AS WAYS OF VIEWING ISSUES FROM MULTIPLE PERPSPECTIVES. WE ALSO SEE INCREDIBLE GROWTH IN STUDENT CONFIDENCE, LEADERSHIP, AND MENTORING SKILLS.

(4) What would you say are/were the activity's weaknesses?

THE TIME STUDENTS HAVE TO RESEARCH AND WRITE PAPERS FOR THE FIRST SPRING CONFERENCE IS SHORT; OTHER THAN THAT, NOT MANY WEAKNESSES.

(5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?

WE HAD SEVERAL KEY LEADERS ON THE TEAM WHO GRADUATED. IN SOME WAYS THE SPRING SEMESTER WAS LIKE STARTING OVER. HOWEVER, WE'D PREPARED RETURNING STUDENTS TO BE MENTORS SO THAT HELPED. ALSO, WE HAD AN ISSUE WITH A STUDENT NOT STAYING AT THE HOTEL—WHICH I DIDN'T FIND OUT ABOUT UNTIL THE END. WE ARE GOING TO WRITE A VERY CLEAR DOCUMENT ABOUT THE STUDENT CODE OF CONDUCT AND OTHER TRAVEL RULES FOR NEXT TIME SO WE ARE NOT EXPOSED TO THIS LIABILITY.

(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?

I LEARNED THAT EVEN OUR WEAKER STUDENTS CAN BE MENTORED TO "STEP UP TO THE PLATE," BE PUSHED BEYOND THEIR COMFORT ZONE, AND WORK HARDER THAN THEY EVER EXPECTED TO. ALSO, EVEN STUDENTS WHO HAVE DONE THIS A FEW TIMES ARE STILL LEARNING NEW THINGS. FINALLY, STUDENTS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO BE GOOD MENTORS.



(7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION) PLEASE SEE ATTACHED REACTION PAPERS (2 FILES, ONE FROM FALL AND ONE FROM SPRING).

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

NORTHWEST MUN —SEATTLE (NOVEMBER)
AIRFARE \$3030.72
REGISTRATION FEES \$830
BAGGAGE CHECK \$50
ADVISOR PER DIEM \$200
AIRPORT TRANSPORT SEATTLE \$96
LAX TRANSPORT AND PARKING \$152
HOTEL \$4070.88
TOTAL: \$8429.60

NORTHWEST MUN-PORTLAND
AIRFARE \$3312
BAGGAGE CHECK \$50
REGISTRATION FEES \$740
ADVISOR PER DIEM \$190
AIRPORT TRANSPORT PORTLAND \$80
LAX TRANSPORT AND PARKING \$116.37
HOTEL \$4062.10
TOTAL \$8550.47

MODEL UN OF THE FAR WEST REGISTRATION FEES: \$1575 HOTEL AND PARKING: \$5509.76 ADVISORS PER DIEM: \$500 ADVISOR MILEAGE: \$443.90

Total: \$8028.66

Final dinner/debrief: \$220

GRAND TOTAL: \$25,228.73

(GRANT AMOUNT WAS \$29,911)

Model UN IRA Report Award #890

List of participants, Fall 2017

Drake Blaisdell Michael Brown

Patricia Cornelious

Madison Cummings

Jerry Lopez

Michael MacDonald

Samuel Martinez

Kristen Melendez

Izamar Narvaez

Lisa Noriega

Ricardo Palacios

Kathryn Royal

Tyler Ryan

Lindsay Sanchez

Donato Valdivia

List of participants, Spring 2018

Madison Cummings

Haley Lawson

Jerry Lopez

Michael MacDonald

Samuel Martinez

Kristen Melendez

Izamar Narvaez

Lisa Noriega

Atticus Reyes

Jennifer Rios

Kathryn Royal

Sara Ruiz

Tyler Ryan

Donato Valdivia

5/10/18

Reflection Paper

This was my third semester of being in the Model UN at Cal State University Channel Islands, and Portland and San Francisco were my 4th and 5th conferences. The first conference I attended in Portland was quite nerve racking, and I only spoke once during the entire conference. Moving onto my next conference I spoke a few times, a little less nerve racking this time. I learned a lot about myself in my first two conferences, including how to speak publicly in a diplomatic manner, work with others in order to cultivate policy, writing speeches on the fly and delivering them in a clear manner. In my 3rd and 4th conferences I was in the RSC and the SC, and it was not my choice to do them but my advisor thought that I was the most suitable for the job. I accepted with much trepidation, mainly I was excited and very nervous because those committees are a lot more intense than the others. I did fairly well in the RSC, learning and absorbing as much information as I could, and trying to enjoy the experience as much as possible.

Fast forward to this semester I was the student in my class with the most experience. A lot of my classmates looked to me for help when writing the position papers, country profiles, resolutions and what the conference was going to be like. It felt nice to help them out, learning a lot about myself during the process. My 4th conference in Portland I was in the SC and I was more prepared for this one than any before it. It was me against the best 14 students that all the

schools who participated in the conference had to offer. Our topics were the situation in the Middle East including the Palestine question, and peacekeeping operations. I raised my placard to speak as often as I could, worked with everyone around the room, wrote as much of the resolutions as I could, and made edits to them when needed. I must've given ten speeches just in the first day, coming a long way from only doing one at the same conference just a year prior. Despite it being the committee with the most experienced delegates in it, I felt calmer than I did in the previous conferences. Another cool thing about Portland was that I got to be a rotating chair for a bit, I mean, I had heard the chairs run the conferences for so long I knew what to say without hesitation; it was awesome. It made me think about applying to be a part of the conference in the future, which still may be a possibility. It took us roughly two days to finish the first topic, in which I was very engaged. Due to the fact that we only had a few hours to work on the second topic, I was a little bit lethargic when I should have tried to be more engaged.

Nonetheless my experience in Portland was the best out of all five that I've done, even though I didn't receive an award during the superlatives. After the awards ceremony, one of the guys that ran the conference came up to my advisor and told her that I was close to winning a delegate award during the voting process by the chairs, suffice it to say I was just happy that I was even considered. CSUCI took 6/14 awards during the ceremony, I was so proud of my team! Channel Islands is definitely going to be a force to reckon with in future conferences.

My 5th and last conference in San Francisco was an amazing experience, there had to be something in the air up there because you could feel the vibe of everyone with their game faces on ready to get to work. I was in the HRC, and the only one from my school in the committee, which was okay with me because I got used to being without any of my classmates from Portland. The topics were really tailored toward ensuring human rights in extreme situations, I

and everyone else took them very seriously and with extreme trepidation. I learned a lot about the policies other countries had, and being in a committee that viewed the world and citizens a little bit differently than the other committees I had been in. It was a little bit different than what I was used to, every conference is, but I adjusted relatively easy as we got a few hours into it. As always, working with other delegates to create policy is one of my favorite things to do at the conferences. Give a few speeches and rising under P-23's and P-25's when it was necessary, sometimes more than others due to not many delegates rising under them to ask questions or make comments, but definitely not as much as I could have.

Working towards human rights was definitely something that changed the way I viewed humans, states, and policies. It is easy to go into the conference and criticize other states based their egregious human rights violations, but what often happens is that the countries that do have this going on within their borders, often admit to it and seeks ways to try and better themselves as well as the international community. A good portion of the conference we talked about implementing human rights within the SDG's and I found that this was necessary in forwarding development and human rights around the world. Our committee found out a way to included human rights into every single one of the SDG's with adequate programs, funding, and thought.

Being Bolivia was one of the more interesting countries I've had because they are very anti capitalist and pro environment, essentially everything that the United States is known for being the opposite of. Bolivia's policies reflect the view of Mother Nature and Mother Earth as the leading factor when considering development and human rights. When I gave speeches, made statements, and talked with delegates during unmoderated debate, I always included what goals Bolivia wanted to achieve at the conference. So much so that by the last day, everyone in

the delegations would say "how's it going mother earth or mother nature" when I would talk with them about what Bolivia wanted to implement into working papers and such.

I have learned different things from each conference that I've been to that will without a doubt leave me better off in any profession that I choose to pursue. Little things like traveling and dressing up in professional attire are things that most people don't even experience when they're in college. In any job, working with the people around you in a diplomatic matter is something all people will have to deal with in their lives, and the MUN has served that purpose well. I wasn't something who grew up very wealthy, and to this day the only place I've every flown to is Kansas just two years ago. This experience has given me so many opportunities to become a more knowledgeable person with regards to many things.

These experiences, as always, teach me a great deal about myself, and the type of person I want to become professionally. The growth I've experienced during the duration of the MUN has not only bettered by skills in the class and at the conferences, but also has improved the quality of work I do in my other classes. There are things that the class and conferences offer that are invaluable to every student that participates in it. All skills that are learned during anyone's experienced with them can be applied generally to every job a person will have in the future. I can honestly say that the MUN is the single most influential class that I've taken during my time at CSUCI, and I would be remiss if I didn't state how much it has helped me grow as an individual.

POLS 427

Model UN

May 8, 2018

Reflection Paper

Participating in Model UN has permitted me to expand my knowledge on international relations, grow my skills in negotiation, and improve my writing. I was able to expand my international perspective because the two very different states I was assigned. Before this course, my knowledge on international relations was primarily focused on developing countries mostly in the Latin America region. At NWMUN in Portland I was assigned the state of Belgium under the Commission on the Status of Women. Being assigned Belgium allowed me to conduct research on a developed country. There was a major difference I see between the research I gather for the Belgium as opposed to doing research on El Salvador or Honduras in my other international courses. NWMUN also allowed me to learn about the Commission on the Status of Women, which is an entity within the United Nations. Prior to this conference I did not know this commission existed, I only knew the international community was combating the disparities of women around the work through the Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals for 2030. Discovering this commission also intrigued me to conduct more research on other committees or commissions, I may want to explore after obtaining my bachelors.

The MUNFW was a different experience because I was assigned to the 4th Committee addressing the Question of Palestine, Food Security, and Decolonization, while representing the state of Turkey. This conference was a different experience because the state of Turkey is heavily impacted by these topics, so I had to become a pivotal role in the discussion occurring

during committee. This was different from my experience with representing Belgium because I was an active participant, but some of the topics covered did not heavily impact Belgium.

Both the NWMUN and the MUNFW helped me grow my negotiation skills. During unmoderated caucus I was able to share my state's platform and hear other state's platforms addressing the different topics. This led to negotiation when compiling our ideas into one condense document to turn into the chairs of our committee/commission. I was able to persuade states to change some wording within the documents, other members felt was too strong. These changes made an impact on who was willing to sign it before the changes were implemented compared to the many states willing to sign after the changes. At the MUNFW negotiation had to be superb because other members were extremely adamant their platform for their specific state overrule other members states. I had a harder time getting my ideas heard and implemented in the working papers because I felt I needed to further develop my growth in negotiation, which would be something I plan to continue to grow with other academic opportunities.

The NWMUN Portland was my favorite conference I attended both semesters. The first one in Seattle last semester was fun, but I was nervous of the unknown variables. In Portland I knew what to expect and I conducted a lot of research on my topics, so I felt extremely prepared. This lead to me speaking 4 times in front of the entire commission. I was very proud because although I was nervous I knew the information and I felt confident in speaking and participating in the commission. My goal for the conference was to talk more than the first time and I completed this goal. Since I spoke it also help me become more interactive during unmoderated caucus and I was able to play a vital role in my groups efforts towards a resolution for the topics being addressed. NWMUN Portland was a conference that I was overall extremely proud of myself for participating in.

I could have done better at the MUNFW with my entire overall performance. The MUNFW conference was an overwhelming experience. The atmosphere was completely different from the other two conferences I participated in. This made it hard for me to fully commit to my committee. The other conference held a higher standard from delegates to understand some people are at different levels in their understanding of the different topics and process of the conference. MUNFW did not hold delegates to the same level. In my committee there was a lot of delegates being demeaning toward others who were trying to understand the process of the conference. This made me feel very uncomfortable and not wanting to participate in the committee. I knew the information, but I was worried about others purposely trying to make me feel I did not belong. After being able to reevaluate the situation after finishing the conference, I was able to understand my response to this could have gone a different route allowing me to grow more from this experience.

Although I know I was not completely comfortable for speaking in front of my committee, I still wanted to be an active member state in the working paper process and unmoderated caucus. I was very involved in the writing process until Kenya was added on to the working document and deleted our entire two and half pages worth of work. This situation caused me to retract from contributing because I felt my work was of no value. The chairs did not maintain a learning atmosphere and it frustrated me. I learned the actions I took during committee was not the right path and I would definitely try to improve my actions if I were to participate in another Model United Nations course.

My overall Model United Nations experience these past two semesters taught me a number of skills and abilities about myself. Before joining the Model UN I felt disconnected from the Political Science program. I felt being a political science major may actually not suit

my interests. I was near finalizing the decision to remove political science as a major when Dr. Scholl encouraged me to apply for a spot in the course. The course push my abilities to think on my feet. The conversation during committee changes rapidly, so the knowledge being used has to continuously be relevant to the topics at hand. My ability to think quickly and present my point lacked greatly before this class and has slowly improve throughout practicing it in class and at conferences.

Through this course I was also able to gain mentorship from Dr. Scholl and Dr. Grove. Both professors were extremely helpful when it came to preparing us for the conference and specifically for MUNFW. There was a different structure to MUNFW and in class they really wanted to make sure everyone understood the procedures we were going to encounter at the conference. This course also taught me to use my resources and the mentors, who have gone through similar interest in traveling and international relations. I noticed one of my biggest weaknesses as a student was building connections with my professors. I became more comfortable with initiating conversation with my professors and this also influenced my other course both within Political Science or Chicanx Studies. I feel comfortable asking, either Dr. Grove or Dr. Scholl, questions about the UN and questions about future careers I am may want to pursue in the future. They have become a great resource when I needed a letter of recommendation or help with internships.

The MUN course also proved to me new experiences are something not to shy away from. I was extremely apprehensive when first starting the class and wonder if I was truly going to enjoy it. After participating in my first simulation I really enjoyed the course because it was finally a course that challenged and engaged my knowledge. I was able to make connections with other students within my Political Science major, who had similar interest in traveling and

international relations. The connections and skills I learned would have never been possible if I did not push myself into taking this course.

Professor Grove

Model UN

May 1, 2018

MUN Reflection

After a rewarding first semester and being allowed back onto the team, I was excited to attend Portland and San Francisco. In the first semester of being a part of Model United Nations, I felt I became more acquainted with how the process works and became equipped with the skills to be a successful delegate. Furthermore, in my first semester as a part of doing Model United Nations, I felt I could get over the fears that come with speaking in front of random people and confident of my knowledge regarding foreign relations. However, I knew that to be a successful delegate this semester, I was going to have to take more time to prepare for each of the conferences.

Once deciding that it was in my best interest to return for another semester of Model United Nations, I began to prepare for each of the conferences ahead. I look on the websites for both Portland and San Francisco to see what the topics were going to be and to see which of them my studies were best suited for. Furthermore, I decided to take the time to briefly investigate each state to see which one I could relate to more. Upon being selected to be Brazil in the General Assembly for Portland and Pakistan on the Second Committee for San Francisco, I was excited to get to work to best represent these member states to the best of my abilities.

Both Portland and San Francisco allowed for me to learn more about how the United Nations works, the processes that occur in International Relations, and how to be a success delegate at Model United Nations conferences. At San Francisco, it was encouraging to hear that at the United Nations it was almost the same process as for how a typical Model United Nations works. For

example, at Model United Nations people will work with those whom they already have a relationship with and with member states in their region whom they have friendly relations with. However, it is worth noting that typically at the conferences I have attended, there have been delegates who will work with another delegate whom they have hostile relations with, which is highly questionable. Regarding International Relations, by attending these conferences, I learned that some of the best resolutions passed in the United Nations come from compromise. It was funny to hear while in San Francisco for the General Secretary to mention that the best resolutions will leave everyone in attendance a little upset. Also, regarding International Relations, when working together to reach an agreement, some individuals will get hung up by the wording of the sentence, because they want to be in control. This aspect was extremely frustrating to me because when going through amendments, some of the delegates had submitted numerous amendments which slowed the ability to get to other topics. Lastly, when it comes to what I learned to be a successful delegate, I learned that it takes confidence and understanding of the topic at hand. I really can get behind the idea of fake it to you make it, however, sometimes you need to be an expert in one of the areas. When attending Portland, I was successful by having a couple of key ideas, and sharing those ideas with each of the working papers. By doing this, I was guaranteed that the aspects of the topic I wanted to be addressed were going to be addressed. Also, to be a successful delegate, you should be willing to take the extra time needed to get the work done to best of your abilities. Very often at both Portland and San Francisco, I would spend the breaks and time off planning speeches and ideas to include in working papers. By doing this, I did not waste speeches nor waste time coming up with ideas while everyone was coming together. Also, I would spend extra time to make sure ideas were formatted while and easy to read such that when people came to read the working papers, they would not get caught up with language and formatting, but would rather focus on the substance of the working papers and be able to add their feedback on the topic, rather than sentence structure.

I think I was most proud of being able to represent the school well and winning the Distinguished Delegate Award while in Portland. Throughout both conferences, I was motivated to be the best delegate I could be. I wanted to make sure that the advisors trusted in my work, my team was confident in my work, and that I was proud of the effort I put forth. I think had I not been satisfied with my work, I would have continued to look down upon myself and not be happy. However, if I put my best foot forward, and worked hard, then not won an award I would be happy. If I had not worked hard, I would have beat myself up with the idea that if I had tried harder, I could have won. With joy, I worked hard at Portland and able to be recognized for my hard work with the award. Although, I will note that I believe that everyone from CSU Channel Islands on my committee could have easily won the award, and thankfully four out of the five of us on the committee ended up winning. Sadly, Atticus did not win, but I know deep down he worked hard and could have easily taken the award away from me. Thus, I hope in the future, he can win an award because he deserves it.

Although I won an award, there was still much room for improvement. As stated in my previous reflection, there is always a need to prepare more. Often when in committee, there is going to be someone in the room who knows something you do not know and thus they control the conversation in that area. It is important when preparing to prepare for everything listed in the background guide and also do research beyond with the history of the topic. Another thing I could have done better was to take more time to write the position papers. Although I would study the topic long before the papers were due, I still did not leave myself adequate time to rewrite the papers and bring them to the highest of the standard. If I was able to do Model United Nation

again, I would have written my paper sooner and tried to have the advisors leave comments before. If I were to do this, I am confident I would have been able to receive higher scores on my papers. Since a conference like San Francisco relies heavily on the pre-written items, I should have taken more time to prepare the written work.

Lastly, these conferences thought me a lot about myself including I am a good public speaker, enjoy International Relations, and with the effort, I can be successful. Going into my second semester of Model United Nations, I was confident in my ability to speak in front of the audience. However, with the addition of P-23 and P-25 at San Francisco, I was nervous in how I would fair with these new additions to the rules. However, I did do well with the new editions and was successful in answering the questions. I also learned that I enjoy issues in the International community. I enjoy being able to question the ideas of another person and sharing mine. I feel I have learned much about the International community, thus it was exciting to be able to be discussing international topics for days on end. Since each problem is so complex, I enjoyed seeing how each delegate had their own ideas to mend the issues at hand. Regarding my own self-discovery, it was cool to see hard work pay off in recognition. It was also cool to see that success comes from taking the time to work hard.

In conclusion, I enjoyed my Model United Nations conference experiences. I would recommend being a team member to anyone that likes International Relations. Without these conferences, my last semester of college would have been dull. I am thankful for all the lessons and memories that came from this experience. I hope that success continues and that awards will be won by returning members. Thanks again Grove and Scholl for taking a risk on me.

MUN Reflection

1. Prior to joining the MUN class, I thought that I had no real previous experience with diplomacy. I wondered how I would be able to adapt to meet the needs of each conference. However, once the first conference in Portland began I realized that I did, in fact, have some useful diplomatic experience. Diplomacy is not something that only occurs in crowded conference rooms or the floor of the United Nations; instead, it is something each and every one of us is required to actively engage in, in order to effectively interact with society. Having worked in restaurants and bars for the past eight years, I realized every night the goal was to be diplomatic--with my coworkers, my managers, and my guests alike. Each person should be treated with dignity. My college career is no different. All of the best classes that I have had the pleasure of partaking in were largely discussion based, and required strict diplomatic behavior in order to function well. As students we were expected to be professional, respectful and decent to one another and to our professors. In fact, the conference was no different. Diplomacy is not secretive or cryptic, taking place only behind locked windowless rooms; we are (or should be) diplomatic all the time. Realizing this gave me the necessary confidence to actively engage at the conference from day one. I was not as inexperienced as I originally thought; daily life had prepared me well. Considering that I had done a fair amount of research upon my state, I was pleased and surprised that I was ready. Additionally, the conferences reinforced the notion of observing and imitating successful strategies in the room. Specifically, I was lucky enough to have Katy Royal in my first committee. What was my strategy? Try to be like Katy. So for the first day, each time Tunisia raised her placard, guess who else followed suit? Ethiopia, each and every time. This forced me to actively participate, write speeches on the fly, and draft my own

resolutions. After the first day, I was comfortable enough to take advantage of my state sovereignty and act as a fully independent state without influence of hegemonic Tunisia.

2. I went into the first conference in Portland rather intrepidly, not fully sure what to expect or how well I would perform. However, after getting the general feel for the committee, I was excited to actively participate in each of the three topics. Being apart of the Human Rights Council was a great fit, as I had deeply held passionate opinions for each of the topics. As such, I was able to draft original resolutions for each of the three topics. After one round of edits, my day two topic was scrapped. There was another, stronger resolution that touched on the main points that I had made. Instead of getting dismayed, I worked closely with the other delegates that had drafted the other resolution, in order to ultimately create a robust, cooperative, and multi-state sponsored piece of legislation. Additionally, I worked hard to gain sponsorship from other delegations for my own original resolutions during unmoderated and moderated caucuses. I remained an active participant on the speakers list and was ultimately able to pass both original resolutions. Collaborating with a variety of different delegates from a wide-range of locations made diplomacy interesting and engaging. In all, I think I am most proud that I was able to create original legislation, but also that they were product of diplomatic free exchange of ideas. Being able to participate with such a diverse group of students was particularly inspiring and fun, and I am looking forward to a professional career that offers a similar environment.

For the second conference I was in the Committee 34, a committee focused upon peacekeeping missions. As the delegate of Pakistan, I went into committee feeling uniquely advantaged, as Pakistan is both the recipient and provider of peacekeepers. However, as delegate made their way through the speakers list, the topic at hand quickly turned to one in which I did

not feel advantaged as Pakistan- women's issues. Specifically, the committee began discussing sexual violence towards recipients of aid, perpetrated by peacekeepers. As a representative of an overwhelmingly majority-Muslim state, I was originally reluctant to join the conversation. However, after doing some research during an unmoderated caucus, I realized that currently there were no laws that explicitly prohibit sexual conduct between peacekeepers and recipients of aid, despite the prevalence of sexual abuse. Instead, official UN Peacekeeping posters only "discouraged" such activities. I was shocked by this discovery, and I felt it was too much of gaping a hole in current policy not to raise the issue to the committee. Pakistan, or not, I raised my placard and added myself to the speakers list. I altered my fellow delegates to the uneven power dynamic naturally created between desperate recipients of aid and peacekeepers providing food, shelter, clothing, and supplies. In the midst of this power dynamic, I argued, true consent could not occur. As such, I urged our committee to draft legislation strictly prohibiting any sexual interaction between peacekeepers and recipients of aid. Admittedly, this was not the Pakistan thing to do. For awhile, I wrestled with making that choice. However, in retrospect and in light of the current discussions and movements focused on sexual abuse and violence, I think it was an important discussion to have amongst such a large diverse group and I am proud to have raised the issue.

3. First and foremost, Portland was a whirlwind. I had done general background research upon the topics and my state over winter break and had felt reasonably informed on the issues. However, when the background guides were released two weeks beforehand, I felt like a novice once again. I realized I had done breadth research, not depth like I should have. Back to HRW.org, The World Factbook, and the library website I scurried. I went through the

background guide several times, highlighting and annotating what I deemed to be important points. (Really, most of the background guide ended up covered in different highlighter colors with scribbles in the margins). However, I failed to adequately research who Ethiopia worked with and what issues they felt strong about. I only watched the delegate from Ethiopia make a few speeches, and I should have watched more. That facet of my research could have been improved.

In regards to San Francisco, I think I relied too heavily on the background guides. I learned from Portland to do independent research on Pakistan's political stances and allies, and the country profile certainly helped structure this research. However, in Portland our guides were extremely representative of what we were discussing day to day in committee. In San Francisco, this really was not the case. Our topics bled upon one another, one being "peacekeeping strategies" and another being "peacekeeping mandates". It was difficult to keep the committee on-topic as a result. Accordingly, I wish I would have made more attempts at redirecting the conversation back to the actual issues at hand.

4. Overall, the class ended up offering great career development; my collaborative skills, public-speaking skills, and research skills all dramatically improved. In short, it felt like a great preview of the professional world. Being my last semester at CI, the timing was optimal.

Dressing and playing the part of a young professional was confidence building, and made me realize that I am not just a student or a bartender, but that I offer valuable real world skills that I will be able to utilize in my career moving forward. This experience has also opened my eyes to the variety of career opportunities that I had not previously considered exploring. I am now researching government careers and considering pursuing an MPA. While I am still seriously

considering law school, I am now weighing my options more broadly. More importantly, this experience has reinforced my desire to pursue an altruistic career.

Model UN

May 10, 2018

Reflection Paper

I really did not know what to expect when I joined Model UN, I had done nothing like this before. Sure I had been in Leadership in high school and worked together with lots of different people to execute plans but it was nothing like Model UN. I also thought my Theatre experience would help me as pretending to be another person is the job of an actor but it didn't exactly come into play. Before coming into Model UN I knew negotiations were hard but this took things to a whole new level. I never knew how much power words actually held when it came to resolutions. "Suggests" and "Encourages" always seemed like synonyms to me but they can be the difference between a state signing onto your document or not. One of the most memorable negotiations is one that I did not even make but very much involved me happened to in San Francisco. A delegate from our school had used the, very unpopular, resolution I had been working on with other States as a bargaining chip to get their resolutions passed. In order to get theirs passed they agreed to re-order the agenda when it came to voting so that my resolution would go last and from then the rest of the body would vote against it. When I learned of this plan after my resolution was shot down I was not exactly mad but just disappointed because I spent the whole day working on this resolution and then it hit me, people in the actual UN probably spend weeks if not months trying to get their legislations passed and also see it thrown away. This experience also taught me about compromise, and how sometimes it can be hard to find a middle ground to fighting for your platform/beliefs and getting people to agree with your legislation, or at the very least get more than fifteen people to pass it.

During the Portland conference I feel like I was able to overcome my fears of talking to new people, especially in a professional setting. Though I am quite loud and outgoing with people I am comfortable with, I get really anxious when it comes to speaking to a group of new people and that level of anxiety rises as I am forced to present myself professionally. The first day of Portland was really rough for me. I was really upset that I had let my nerves get the better of me, however, the next day was a lot easier for me. I was able to talk to other delegates and even collaborate with them to write resolutions. Something else I feel like I did really well on in Portland was writing resolutions. Being in the HRC and doing the country reviews, our resolutions were a little different than the other committees. Our resolutions were much shorter than the other committees and only had a few clauses on them. I was able to turn in multiple resolutions throughout the weekend and talked to the dais multiple times about my papers. I felt this was a really nice experience for my first Conference. Though I felt I really well at breaking out of my shell and writing resolutions, I feel like I could have done a better job at giving speeches. The first time I spoke at Portland, was really bad. My voice was really shaking and probably very quiet, which as a theatre kid is unheard of. After the initial speech I spoke twice more, those times were a little more confident but not up to my usual par. I should have prepared a few short speeches before the conference, that would have made me feel a little more secure rather than just scribbling them out the day of.

The whole semester I had been warned about San Francisco, so when it finally came I was nervous to say the least. However, despite the nerves I felt like I was able to branch out more than I had before. In Portland, I had the safety net of working with a lot of people from our class and our countries more or less agreed on all the issues pertaining to human rights, this was not the case in San Francisco. Bolivia had such a strong stance on everything that I felt like I

would be personally betraying Evo Morales if I watered down my policies to work with the people I knew from class. Throughout the conference I worked with the Latin American Bloc on lot of the issues and during the "Responsibility to Protect Doctrine" I worked with Russia, Venezuela, and North Korea. An odd bunch I realize but it was definitely an interesting experience. Though I feel like I was more comfortable talking with new people I feel like I was not prepared when it came to writing resolutions. As I mentioned previously, in Portland I felt like I did really well when it came to writing my resolutions but at San Francisco I was having a hard time. The language that goes into writing resolutions is still a little foreign to me. During the conference I had a hard time writing out the thought I had in my head and I felt like this made it hard for me to communicate what my platform was. Though I was able to verbalize it well I was not able to express my thoughts on paper.

I think this experience really pushed myself out of my comfort zone in the best way possible. Though I am interested in politics, I never really pictured myself as a politician. I initially joined this team in order to gain more first hand experience with the UN because of my dreams to be a political satirist. I felt that I should truly get to know every aspect of the political world, so that in the future I could make fun of it. Though I did accomplish my initial goal I also feel like I learned that maybe I do have what it takes to be a politician, the thought of making big decisions and talking to people always made me hesitant but after these to conference those things no longer seem that frightening. This experience also really allowed me to develop my research skills. Since I'm only a sophomore I have only researched a few times for a few papers, but none of those past experiences forced me to research this much and this in depth. This will really prepare me for next year when I start taking classes specifically for my major. Besides the things I previously mentioned I have also learned a lot of little things throughout my semester

with Model UN such as learning that I can drive through San Francisco without having a panic attack, some people take Model UN a little too serious, everyone at the conference has no idea what they are doing and that's ok, and that I can survive hours upon hours of political debate. I am very grateful for all the experiences that I have had throughout this semester and I know that I will take everything I learned with me for the rest of my life.

Reflection Paper - Model United Nations Spring 2018

My experience participating in the Model United Nations course at CSU Channel Islands has been nothing short of transformative. I've enhanced my public speaking skills, built my confidence as a delegate and as a person, expanded my comfort zone, and learned about the importance of diplomacy not only in politics but in every aspect of life.

At the Northwest Model United Nations Conference in Portland this past February, I represented the Republic of Korea on the Commission on the Status of Women. As this was a very small committee, I had the freedom to speak far more than I did at my first conference in Seattle. I utilized this advantage and ended up speaking more times than most delegates in the committee. I also felt that my speeches were stronger at this conference than they were in Seattle. By my second conference, I could already see how much I had transformed as a delegate.

Portland was a growing experience for me, to say the very least. While doing research on my committee's topics, I became frustrated by the lack of information on the empowerment of indigenous women in South Korea. As a result, I felt insecure about the content I had to contribute during the conference. The lack of information on this topic was also a reason why my position paper for Portland wasn't nearly as strong as my paper for Seattle was. This challenge, however, made me have to work even harder to be a strong voice in this committee. I never know how thankful I am for such challenges until I've conquered them. On the last day of the conference, I spearheaded a working paper on our indigenous women topic by gathering

delegates that I knew would work together well. I ended up writing a majority of the clauses, brought in delegates who did not have strong voices during the previous conference days so that they could feel involved, and got my resolution passed by acclamation. I was so proud of the work I had done, but wished I had behaved the way I did on the last day for the entire duration of the conference.

Up until the last day in Portland, I put too much of my focus on the amount of times I spoke as well as the content of my speeches. I could have focused this energy instead on finding ways to communicate with a greater number of delegates rather than staying primarily within my working group for the first two days. For future conferences, I will know to focus my attention on the connections I make with other delegates as I have now seen the importance of communication between working groups.

I was disappointed that I did not win an award, but as a result, I learned that speaking is not the the most important thing you need to do to be regarded as a distinguished delegate. As I stated before, I learned about the importance of creating connections and facilitating communication amongst delegates. The United Nations does not create earth-altering change through the amount of speeches given, but rather through collaboration, diplomacy, and communication amongst state representatives. When this became clear to me, I was no longer upset at myself for not winning an award, but proud that I had finally realized the purpose of the United Nations and, most importantly, I was proud that I realized why I attend these conferences. My biggest

takeaway was to focus on relationships and communication and *not* on the number of speeches I give.

In San Francisco, I did not have as positive an experience as I did in Seattle and Portland. I was representing Bolivia on Committee 34 discussing peacekeeping and peacebuilding strategies.

Once again, I was concerned while doing research that I would not have a strong voice being a small South American country with a virtually inactive military. However, I researched for months and wrote a paper that I believed was 10 times better than the ones I wrote for Seattle and Portland. I went into this conference feeling confident because of the amount of research that I did.

While at the conference, the two other delegates from my school were lacking motivation to be involved in our committee. There was pressure put on me to behave in a similar manner, and it was difficult to stay fully engaged when I was constantly surrounded by negative attitudes toward the conference. My confidence as a delegate began to decline throughout the duration of the conference, and I expressed concern to my advisors that this may have shown through my performance.

Despite these obstacles, I still spoke more than most delegates and my speeches were well thought-out. I formed relationships and communicated with many other delegates, including our special rapporteur, Burundi. At one point, when Burundi realized he could not attend the closing

ceremony, he considered having me take his place as rapporteur. Although I didn't, I still felt proud and more confident than before.

My proudest moment of MUNFW was helping a developmentally disabled delegate who was having trouble interpreting many of the clauses in our resolutions. I interpreted every clause for him while we did our committee-wide table reads of the resolutions. Many of the other delegates were frustrated with him and his adamant opposition to many of the clauses, but having a developmentally disabled sister has made me more tolerant than most, I suppose. I sat with him and talked to him until he could agree to every clause - something none of the other delegates were willing to do. I feel that I learned more about diplomacy, tolerance, and cooperation by doing this as opposed to talking over him as most other delegates did. Although what I did was behind-the-scenes, I truly believe that I saved our working paper from being voted down.

Both conferences served as transformative and growth-inducing experiences for me, and in very different ways. NWMUN Portland taught me the importance of building relationships and connections with delegates. MUNFW taught me the importance of standing my ground, being humble, and being tolerant. I was also able to prioritize relationships by focusing less on speaking time, and I felt that I accomplished so much more by doing so.

These experiences taught me that challenges are the best things that can happen to me. The obstacles that I faced in Portland and in San Francisco yielded so much growth within myself in regards to staying engaged despite negativity and peer pressure, focusing on quality (of

relationships) over quantity (of speeches), and humbling myself to help others while being okay with the lack of recognition.

POLS 427 - Model UN

Dr. Grove, Dr. Scholl

9 May 2018

Spring 2018 Reflection

This semester, the Model UN class was a lot more enjoyable for me. It was nice to start off the semester actually knowing the majority of the classmates from the previous semester. While the Portland conference snuck up on us at the beginning of the semester, I think we were all better prepared because we knew what to expect. I think even the new students were less intimidated because at least we could help them better understand how the conference works. Adding the San Francisco conference in April proved to be a challenge because I was used to investing in one conference and then being done for the semester.

Over the past two conferences, I have been challenged in my ways of diplomacy more so than before. Specifically at MUNFW in San Francisco, I was forced to learn how to be diplomatic and negotiate with a country that publicly called my country out three times during committee. As an individual, my immediate response was to either ignore or start talking back at her, but I remembered I was here to represent Turkey and needed to act accordingly. By taking a diplomatic stance in front of the group, I learned the rewarding outcome of diplomacy as you gain respect from fellow delegates and it makes the negotiations run a lot smoother. At NWMUN in Portland, one of the most important things I learned is that negotiations take longer than you would think. Our committee had little to no controversy so I went in expecting the committee to be able to write resolutions rather quickly. However, I learned that when each paper is so similar, it actually prolongs the efforts of getting a resolution approved because they are too similar or

the countries get more detailed about what they will actually approve of. This pushed our committee to stay focused when the topic seemed repetitive. This explained to me why in the real world, international negotiations take so long. Every country has something to add and you have to diligently work together as a committee to try and satisfy the needs of every country.

In terms of how I did as a delegate at the conferences, there are two specific things I am proud of myself for. In Portland, I was proud that I actually worked up the courage to speak in front of the group multiple times as I did not do this in the fall. Our committee was significantly smaller and after having experience now, I felt much more confident in my country and my ability to discuss the topics at hand with other delegates. The first time I spoke I was nervous but I quickly realized that we were all just going up there to give our country's stances and I had confidence in that. Throughout the conference, it became easier to speak with other delegates and address the body as a whole.

In San Francisco, I am most proud of the way I confronted the country calling me out. When she spoke against my country the first time, I chose to ignore the statement and leave the room to catch my breath as everyone had been staring at me waiting on a response. With some guidance from my fellow classmates and professor, I was able to enter the room again understanding that the issue at hand didn't pertain to the larger topic being discussed. Later that night, the delegate brought it up again and at this point, I was just annoyed because it was getting the committee off topic. It was also rather late at night and my brain was fried so I chose to ignore it yet again. Starting off the next day, the delegate brought it up a third time and I finally decided this was my chance to respond and redirect the attention towards the paper we were all working on. With some quick advice and encouragement from my classmates, I stood up to reply stating the importance of the main issue being discussed and that this matter the delegate

continues to bring up is not relevant and we need to move on. I believe I was very professional and diplomatic in my response and other delegates affirmed me in my response and we were all able to move forward with our paper. Speaking up on this was definitely out of my comfort zone, but it felt so satisfying once it was over. I am proud of myself for going beyond what was required as a delegate.

At both conferences, I was proud of our team. We all have done such a great job representing Channel Islands and supporting one another. We encourage each other to actively engage in the conference and learn from ourselves and one another. Regardless of how the conference judges our involvement in the committees, I am proud of us and think we did great at both conferences.

In regards to what I could have done better at the Portland conference, I think I could have prepared more beforehand. While writing my papers, I found it quite difficult to find research on the country of Tunisia and instead of asking for help in research, I just went with what I could find, even if it wasn't enough. As it was the beginning of the semester and I was working two jobs, in the transition of moving, and starting new classes, I was overwhelmed and struggled with time management. As a result, I think it showed in my paper and at the conference when I didn't know as much about my country as others. Also, in Portland, I could have been more firm in my country's stance on the topic, but instead I went with the flow of what everyone else had to say. There were some moments of controversy where I chose to go with the group even though my country disagreed. On the flip side, I was able to learn from this and stay true to my country in San Francisco.

In San Francisco, my biggest issue was staying focused. Because the conference was so many days and long hours, I found it really difficult to stay plugged in the whole entire

committee time. Whether I was hungry or tired or just ready to move on to another topic, my mind was not fully present the whole time. Also because our committee topics were so similar and intertwined with each other, it felt like we were talking about the same thing for five days straight that we had already written resolutions on. The sense of redundancy impacted our committee's focus a lot and people were stretching to add in new things and keep the conversation going. As an individual, I could have put in more effort to bring up new ideas and contribute to the conversation to keep it interesting. This conference was the most difficult for me because of the length and disorganization of the overall conference.

As an individual, I think these conferences brought up a lot of important lessons for myself. Namely, the fact that I do have a purpose in speaking up at the conferences and in life. I've noticed that I hold strong opinions on various issues, but I am quick to step down and let someone else speak. It's not so much that I doubt my opinions or don't think their valid, but a lot of the time I don't see the point in what my one statement can bring to the table that hasn't already been addressed. These past two conferences have really shown me that my specific voice as a country does play an important role in the United Nations and that every country needs to speak up for themselves. I was pushed in San Francisco to speak up for my country instead of continually ignoring the situation and it revealed how much of a tendency this is for me as an individual. Moving forward, I hope to keep these moments with me as a reminder to speak up for myself, but remember the diplomacy I held and act accordingly in my personal life. I am looking forward to doing Model United Nations next fall in my final semester of my undergrad career. Model UN overall has grown my public speaking and research skills and I hope to learn more next semester and take this all with me in my life post-college.

POLS 427

10 May 2018

Model United Nations Reflection

Considering my prior experience with Model UN last semester, my appreciation for negotiation and debate both in the context of international relations and politics in general has grown considerably. The reason behind this growing appreciation has to do with the variety in experiences between the Portland and San Francisco conferences. Each of them involved role playing as a delegate, but beyond that, the situations and topics were completely different. For example, The Portland conference involved a great deal of independent work that often had me frequently consulting with the state being reviewed instead of sculpting a working paper alongside multiple delegates. In this case, I observed and participated in a process that does not necessarily allow one to freely recommend any action even when speaking directly to the state in question. Even with individual states, the wording of a document remains a painstaking process that can easily be misinterpreted as insulting to any party involved in a negotiation. Playing the role of Belgium, I ultimately did succeed in having my recommendation passed, but in the process of recommendations to Canada, a state Belgium is on friendly terms with, the wording of my document had to be revised number of times despite my best intentions because it implied that Canada had not already initiated the process of aiding First Nation peoples. Indeed, one can only imagine how the difficulty of such diplomatic endeavors increases when it is two or more states discussing topics they disagree greatly on.

Of course, this is exactly what happened at the San Francisco conference where the entire committee got bogged down on the same topic: the question of Palestine, for almost the entire

conference. We barely managed to pass a second resolution on food insecurity in conflict zones at the last minute and that was largely because it was an issue most delegates easily agreed on. This was in stark contrast to the Portland conference which saw the passing of recommendations for all three states and proved to be an enormous relief when one of three proposed working papers was passed as a resolution. The San Francisco conference was reminiscent of my experience in Seattle in the sense that it required the collaborative efforts of all delegates, although the intensity level was higher and the topic brought out the ugliest side of international politics. Several of the delegates made a point to denounce each other at every opportunity and it is within this context that I found myself trying to remain diplomatic in all my statements and decisions during unmoderated caucuses.

Since I was playing the role of Pakistan, a state that has made its stance on the issue of Palestine very clear multiple times in the past, there were times when the credibility of my statements could either earn me praise or disdain depending on every state's individual opinion. The world does not exist in a vacuum devoid of history and I had to contend with this fact because a state's mere presence already carries baggage and assumptions that other delegates will automatically ascribe to my state. This often meant that I had to clarify my intentions within the limited scope of the topic at hand as I once had to make a speech to assure India that Pakistan had no intention of bringing up the tensions regarding Kashmir. On the other hand, this political maneuvering also helped me appreciate that even among two states that disagree on a variety of issues, there might still be opportunities for cooperation. Admittedly, this seems to contradict my earlier statement on the difficulties faced among close allies, but the main takeaway is that of a greater appreciation of the complexity involved in crafting lasting solutions to real world problems. There is no guaranteed formula that will work flawlessly in every situation, and both

simple solutions and difficulties will be found in the most unexpected of situations, but Model UN has taught me that there usually is some compromise to be found.

Even though participation in this class and in these conference has taught me much about international politics I cannot ignore the value it represents to me at a personal level. Within the seemingly endless debates regarding the world's most pressing issues I also found myself developing into a person who has grown more comfortable with public speaking. Although this reflection is not about last semester's experience in Seattle, I must say that my confidence within these formal committees has improved to an extent I could not have imagined just a few months ago. In Portland, for example, I felt that I had to put in great effort to make my presence known and this led to me giving more frequent statements and speeches. Although not perfect, I did begin to sense a growing level of comfort when it came to public speaking. Fast-forward to San Francisco, and I felt completely within my element when giving my speeches, one of which had to be improvised within a matter of minutes. Additionally, I could answer P-25's quite naturally and the positive feedback received in P-23's came as a great relief since I knew my words as a representative of Pakistan were taken seriously. In truth, I was expecting the San Francisco conference to be a total catastrophe since I was not sure how I would hold up when being questioned, but to my surprise, it was indeed one of my better performances overall. It is difficult to say what I am most proud of from Portland and San Francisco individually because I see both conferences as a progression in my public and formal speaking ability stretching back to last semester. However, it is fair to say that San Francisco is memorable for my confidence in speaking, whereas Portland provided an opportunity for careful policy crafting. In either case, I found myself more involved and generally more appreciative of the process that goes into negotiation and policy making.

In terms of what I could have improved however, I believe that is not easy to answer since my perception of these conferences has been positive and simply part of a learning experience that required breaking through barriers, painfully at times, but overall not something to criticize myself over. Perhaps I could have spoken *a bit* more at the Portland conference and asserted myself as a leading figure at San Francisco *a bit* more as well, but I also had realistic expectations for myself. I understood that these conferences were an opportunity to not only learn about international politics, but also as an opportunity for some self-improvement in terms of diplomatic skills. Therefore, I went in attempting to refine the skills I had been gradually building instead of comparing myself to others who may have performed better than I did.

Nevertheless, I performed my role as a delegate well, participated fully, and in my opinion, total involvement in these educational events is what matters the most regardless of skill level.

My Model UN experience has been positive not only because of the educational value offered by the conferences, but also due to the opportunity of interacting with countless other students who value the work done on an international level to overcome the world's long-standing challenges. Originally, I was skeptical about trying it for a second semester, but now I am glad to have experienced both conferences and the variety they have offered in terms of topics as well as opportunities to improve on skills I lacked in last semester's Model UN.

Izamar Narvaez

Model United Nations

Friday: 9:00am-11:00pm

Model United Nations

(Reflection)

1. What are the most important things you learned by participating in the Model UN class and conferences? Please focus on what you have learned about international relations, diplomacy, negotiations, etc.

By participating in the Model United Nations class and conferences I learned a lot of important things that will help me later in life. Some of the important things I learned were being able to work with other people in order to create solutions to the problems that are affecting the world. For example, in the conference of the Model United Nations Far West our topics were the following: The Impact of the World Drug Problem and Applying the Responsibility to Protect Doctrine and I was able to work with other people and see what was their position in this particular issue that affects every nation in the world. Also, when I was trying to work with other groups to create a solution to this issue was hard because I think this issue involves many aspects, for example, when we talk about the world drug problem we are also taking into account health issues such as, HIV and AIDS, border security and national policies and from my point of view I think it was hard to try to work with other people because their countries had a specific and different position in this topic such as, different policies, etc.

But overall I think this was a great opportunity because I was able to learn how to write a position paper, resolutions, and how to work with other people in an effective way, in other words, being able to apply diplomacy.

2. What are you most proud of, at each conference (individually)? What could you have done better at the Portland conference? How about at MUNFW?

I think what I am most proud of at each conference was that at the conference in Portland I was able to talk in front of people in my committee and it was something big for me because I am a shy person and being able to talk in front of many people was something really helpful for me and I am happy that I was able to do it. Also, another thing that makes me proud is that I was able to write a position paper and learn about a country's national policies, international agreements and the United Nations efforts.

On the other side, in the conference of the Model United Nations Far West I wasn't able to talk because I felt that I wasn't really prepared for questions, especially because of my country's policies and situation in the current era but I tried to work with other groups and it was hard because they were trying to eliminate all the Middle East countries from their resolutions, and its benefits.

Moreover, some of the things I wish I had done better at the conferences was being able to participate more, being able to talk and be ready for all kinds of questions, Also, another think I wish I had done better would be try to work with a small group of my region block because that was I did for the conference at Seattle and personally I think it was the best conference I ever attended because I was able to work with other people and they listened to my opinions and concerns but on the other hand, in the MUNFW I was trying to write something in the document and the other people deleted.

Lastly, the conference in San Francisco was really different from the one in Seattle and Portland, especially because of the people that were trying to write the entire paper by themselves.

3. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

I think these conferences were really helpful for me because as I mentioned before they gave me the opportunity to interact with other people and I learned how to do a good research, write resolutions and position papers. In addition, I think they helped me in the way that I was able to talk in front of a group and being able to talk and listen to other's opinions.

Lastly, I think all these experiences and knowledge will help me in my future because I already know how to work as a team and also, how to be more tolerant to others ideas/opinions, etc.

MUN Reflection

Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

Reflection Paper

There are many things I learned throughout my MUN experience that I believe I will carry on for the rest of time my being a student as well as my professional career. Many of these are the building of connections between delegates and the need to stay true to your country's stances. After the initial shock of being in a room of very well prepared and intelligent individuals, being able to build connections with other delegates was so important.

These connections carried throughout each conference as we worked together to build policy resolutions. Delegates worked together and engaged in conversation about global issues like I had never experience before. The people you sat close to became your allies within a matter of hours and soon they were your friends as well as your fellow delegates. Though MUN is a model simulation, the resemblance of what goes on in an actual UN meeting is what will be shocking to me for a long time. People are usually coming together to change the world for the better.

Delegates also did better when staying as true as possible to their country's policies. I enjoyed seeing delegates defend their country in unmoderated and moderated sessions, taking any insults or slight offences against their states as their own, I was no exception. Being able to try to push resolutions on behalf of an entire country was by far the most important aspect of the conferences and making sure these are resolutions your country would support is a huge part of

that. There is also a need for willingness to be creative with the interpretation of your country, being able to negotiate and budge on certain positions is also necessary.

In the MUNFW conference, there was a push for willingness to be creative as issues being discussed were controversial in the 4th committee on decolonization. Watching negotiations, successful and unsuccessful were seen throughout the conference, and often there were conflicts over the precise wording of documents, making sure the resolution called for action while simultaneously avoiding imposing on any state's sovereignty.

I grew a lot as a delegate during the two conferences I attended. At my first conference in Portland I had trouble adjusting to the way MUN works and the specific language used, however as time went on I adapted to the formal speech and the uses of specific diplomatic words. For this conference I was proud of my growth day by day. Each day I was a bit more involved to the point that by the last day I wrote my own recommendation on behalf of The Republic of Korea, something I thought I would never have the courage or knowledge to do if you had asked me the very first day at the conference. My recommendation was adapted and received the support of many if not all states present, including the state under review.

In my second conference, I arrived much more confident. I knew how these conferences worked much better than I did before. At MUNFW, I became a leader in the Latin Voting bloc as Bolivia, all the Latin American delegates came to me for voting plans and looked to my vote to follow along.

Being a leader in this conference is what made me the proudest. I was noticed by two members of the Dias as I stood solidly by my country's need to acknowledge mother earth by name as a being within resolutions. I was so persistent, I was nicknamed "Mother Earth" by

some of the delegates, very celebratory of Earth day. Being able to be considered a strong delegate was something I am pleased I was able to do. Being able to talk to delegates from different blocs and negotiate the wording and content of my resolution was exciting and something people don't get to experience often like I did.

With the Portland conference being the first conference I attended, I could have improved in many ways. I could have been more assertive about recommendations on how to improve the human rights of the countries under review. I feel I did not do The Republic of Korea justice as I had trouble being forthright around more conditioned delegates. I could have been more vocal about the way Korea has improved in their own policies and ways that Colombia, Canada and Malaysia could have followed suit with similar laws for their own population. Though I did get a recommendation out for the final state, I could have gained that confidence faster and been creating regulations of my own for the other two countries as well. I also could have been more interactive in the unmoderated debates and become a leading delegate for the entirety of the conference rather than just during the final topic.

For the San Francisco conference I had less to improve upon because I already had the Portland as a learning conference but I feel I could have made more speeches to the overall body with stronger language to make a more powerful impression while continuing to be as diplomatic as possible. Though I was active during unmoderated caucuses, I rarely spoke to the entire body in a formal statement, still kind of shaky in my ability to speak in front of a large group. The State of Bolivia has strong views about most issues impacting the world so portraying them as strong as possible is something that is very important in order to be accurate. There is also room for improvement as the P-rules in this conference took a while to get used to, I wish I had used them more to my advantage throughout the entire experience.

These experiences helped me grow as a person as I slowly became more confident in my competence and ability to lead even within a group of people who are leaders themselves. I learned to be able to handle stressful situations and being put under fire by other delegates within the committees I served. I came into the class thinking everyone there knew way more than I would be able to handle but realized I could be like the delegates around me easily and present meaningful ideas of my own as well as hold my own in discussions and make an impact on the body as a whole. I learned that as long as I am sure of myself and my preparedness, I am able to make the people around me listen and am able to delegate the writing of a resolution to the point of it being voted on. I gained confidence in myself through MUN that I never would have had.

Model UN

Spring 2018

Reflection

Participating in the Model UN conference was an invaluable experience. Not only did the experience allow for the opportunity to improve my public speaking skills but also provided a broadened view of how the international community operates. Additionally, the issues discussed are most times outside of the realm of what's being studied in class. The fact that the issues are current created more debate within member states because the information was relevant to the current global climate. While there are many moments I am proud of, there were times in both conferences where I could have done better. Overall, it has been an extremely rewarding experience that has taught me to have confidence in myself and the work that I do.

The Model UN conference allowed me the opportunity to see how the international community reaches consensus by compromising on the most pressing issues affecting the international community. Through this experience, I was able to see firsthand the negotiations that take place between different member states. For example, as Bolivia discussing the impacts of globalization on small and medium economies, my main argument was to address the negative effects that globalization has had while realizing the benefits that countries such a Bolivia can experience if there is more regional cooperation. In order to reach consensus, Bolivia was asking for member states to nationalize a portion of their natural resources, however, that was not likely to have the support of the entire body. Therefore, compromises had to be made while ensuring that

the voice of the indigenous populations was included. This experience showed me how important language is to member states. Such as what perambulatory clause was used.

Additionally, the conference showed me that although each delegate is in the room to represent the best interest of their member state that the entire goal of the conference and the UN is to reach consensus. This level of diplomacy was something I have not experienced in other settings. The differences were set aside between the different member states and delegates worked together as a whole. This showed me that overall, the international community does view the world as one large community that has to coexist amongst each other. The entire process of drafting resolutions provided great insight on how member states actively ensure that their priorities are heard and included in the resolution that will have a lasting impact.

I am most proud of the fact that at Portland, winning the position paper award meant a lot to me. The main focus while completing my bachelors was to improve my writing. Looking back two years ago, I would have never thought that I could be recognized for something I wrote. Additionally, as South Korea, I am proud of the amount of research and time that went into the position paper and overall topic. Being that the topic was Nuclear Non-Proliferation, I felt that I would have to take a strong position and accurately address the critical situation of North Korea. While it would seem natural for South Korea to be leading this discussion, I was proud at how I was able to command the room and get our resolution passed.

In San Francisco, my favorite conference of the three, I am proud that although representing Bolivia, one of the smallest and poorest countries in the world, I was able to lead a group of member states that was diverse and representing all corners of the globe. It was an honor to be selected as the Rapporteur by the committee. Additionally, I am proud of my use of the P23 and P25 options. This allowed me to really focus in on other delegates and think critically in order

to either ask or question or comment. I was also proud of the fact that when speaking, I was able to respond to the questions asked on the fly. While I have been improving my public speaking skills, one area where I am continuously working is responding being able to respond on the fly and not having talking points. This experience allowed me the opportunity to work on that and boost my confidence when I realized that I could do it. There were, however, areas where I could have done better.

At the Portland conference, the committee size was a little smaller and fewer speakers. Therefore, I could have prepared prior to the conference in regards to preparing speeches. I found myself adding my name to the speaker's list to keep it going but often times not having anything new to speak on. Additionally, I don't feel as if I fully utilized the Dais as a resource. There were portions of our resolutions and some of our key arguments that the chair didn't feel were relevant. At MUNFW, the hardest challenge was the fact that there were three topics. I focused more directly on one topic that Bolivia was most relevant on and of course that was the topic that we ended up not discussing. I think preparing a one-pager, aside from the position paper, that laid out Bolivia's position on each topic would be beneficial. As Bolivia, I felt that I had enough information to form arguments for what was wrong but lacked in terms of actual solutions that would be supported by all member states.

This experience taught me that I can be confident when being put on the spot and speaking in front of a room of people on issues that I am actually not well versed on. Normally, when public speaking, I rely heavily on notecards or talking points and talking off the cuff has always been a challenge. The conference gave me the opportunity to do just that. There were times in either moderated debate or when a delegate would make a comment prior to me speaking and I would want to respond and have to continuously adjust what I was going to talk about. Additionally, this

experience solidified my passion for working with policy, whether that be an elected official or a diplomat in a foreign country. This experience has shown me that this is something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life.

Moreover, through MUN, I have learned how to express my thoughts logically and persuasively. I've learned how to create resolutions that work, and I learned that the best resolutions are the ones that actually create change. Through MUN, I have learned how to build on ideas that can make a difference. This allowed me to be genuine, authentic, and increase my self-awareness by expressing my perspective. But most importantly, this has helped me develop my leadership skills.

Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

Spring 2018

Model UN Reflection Portland & San Francisco

Model United Nations has contributed to my education and knowledge of the world far more than I could have expected. Although classes like International Relations were absolutely essential in taking this class and providing a solid foundation of knowledge, the ways in which these concepts are put forth in Model UN are unparalleled. Each country I have represented (Tunisia in NWMUN Portland and Bolivia in MUNFW) are countries I knew very little about. Having to focus my research about a country in a way in which I feel comfortable representing that country and not just summarizing it from a U.S. perspective automatically made the research more in depth, but also I paid more attention to nuances. For example, when figuring out which countries Bolivia is aligned with in Latin America, and which large countries they may have as trade partners, it was not enough to simply have a list. I wanted to know why they aligned themselves, what they traded, why they had a rough history and any information which would help me further understand the motivations of the country I would be representing. I had so much fun learning about Bolivia specifically, as their president and statements and policies were so much more radical than I had ever known. Bolivia wasn't a country I had ever thought about, but the country has such a strong political personality, making representing them at MUN so much more exciting. Even further than the research, participating at the conference taught me so much about other countries policies, especially in the Security Council where I was surrounded by a small group of very prepared delegates. I know a big theme in Model UN is "fake it until you make it", but I truly felt like I was surrounded by delegates who knew exactly what they were

doing, and that was challenging. It was great, though, and when certain countries took positions or made decisions that confused me, they were able to explain what their thought process was. I learned a lot about even U.S. domestic policy by speaking with the U.S. representative on their decisions to (nearly) veto so many resolutions. I also really appreciated being able to speak with real United Nations representatives about their work in the United Nations, what it's really like to negotiate, and how they got into their jobs.

Being on the Security Council definitely took me out of the comfort zone I had gotten in to at Portland. After learning how to "do Model UN" in Seattle, Portland was exciting but definitely easier. However, being in committee with only 14 other delegates was intimidating and challenging. Additionally, being in the Security Council we did not know our topics ahead of time. We ended up discussing 5 agenda items, only one of which I had briefly researched in my conference preparation. I did not think I would be able to participate in negotiations on a topic I hadn't had any research on, but I was able to pull through. It meant I had to make a lot of assumptions based on what I already knew about Bolivia and a few quick articles to make my arguments and cast my votes, but I was able to do it. We ended up passing two resolutions on the civil war in South Sudan, which was a topic I knew nothing about in general. However, I now know so much more about very important world topics. I know I could obviously look up these events in the news, and I do, but participating in Model UN has given me a much more in depth understanding and it makes me feel more confident and like a better world citizen.

In Portland, I felt truly prepared for my topics and definitely was proud of my leadership skills. I understood the procedural aspects of the conference more and was able to participate more in the general motions. I had four other team mates in the committee with me, so I enjoyed being able to coach my team members and watch them progress through the conference. I made

a lot of speeches I was proud of and I felt as if I developed my public speaking skills a lot. I ended up winning an award for my position paper and a delegate award which was a nice validation for the hard work I put in, but there were definitely delegates in my committee that I thought deserved awards as well. Being in Model UN and discussing important events and having a place to be a leader was so beneficial to my self-confidence. At MUNFW, in the Security Council, I definitely had more of a challenging time keeping up. I didn't make nearly as many speeches, as I didn't feel I always had the information I needed to be a beneficial contributor to the conversation. However, whereas I got through Portland and Seattle by speaking more than anyone else and writing very little, I focused my energy into writing at this conference. I knew if I wasn't speaking as much I had to make up for it in other efforts and I still wanted to be included. I was the primary sponsor on two resolutions and two presidential statements, as well as aiding in the writing of two more resolutions. I am definitely proud of that. I wasn't confident in my ability to write a resolution as I was kind of able to get out of it, or around it, at other conferences, but I feel as if I made up for that here. I think my weaknesses at Portland were my strengths in San Francisco, and vice versa. If I were to do another conference, I would definitely try to be all of the above.

Model UN has continuously taught me that even when put outside my comfort zone, I can thrive. Going in to Model UN I had no experience in anything of that sort, and especially not in International Relations. The very first time I stood up in front of committee to give a speech, my voice shook like I was about to cry. I hadn't even felt nervous to speak, but I guess the nerves hit me once I was up there. That was a bit disheartening, as speaking in front of people was probably the one thing about Model UN that I felt entirely comfortable with. However, I truly learned that "fake it till you make it" is a necessary rule of Model UN, and that I was capable of

it. My research skills got so much better, and so did my critical thinking skills. There are some aspects of my personality that I think Model UN brought out, like my abilities to lead and collaborate, but other abilities like research and formulating policy opinions I really think were born out of Model UN. I became so much more comfortable putting myself into uncomfortable situations because it taught me to trust my instincts and made me realize that it is possible for me to be a quick learner. Model UN is an experience I would recommend to anyone in college or high school who wants a way to become a more confident and knowledgeable person while having a place to develop important skills for college and life beyond.

Reflection Paper

1. What are the most important things you learned by participating in the Model UN class and conferences?

One of the most interesting things I learned this semester was the different categorical issues the committees focus on when in session. Of course, I did know the Security Council deals with international peace and security and the human rights council develop ideas to promote and protect human rights, but the introduction of the 2nd, 4th, and the 34th committee were all new to me going into our conference in San Francisco. Upon choosing which committee and country to delegate for in San Francisco, I was more drawn to the 2nd committee's topics as it focused on international economic issues. Little did I know, the 2nd committee was the financial and economic committee that deals with economic growth and development conflictions across member states which was perfect for me! Econ, econ, econ! I thought the 4th committee was interesting as well as it deals with political and decolonization issues, but my least favorite was 34th committee. I thought the idea of the peacekeeping and peacebuilding committee was interesting, but the topics not so much. It might be different in the actual UN, however, the topics for the 34th committee in San Francisco were too vague for me. I would have enjoyed to see more specific topics such as addressing conflicts in the Middle East or Africa. Dividing the world between the developed North and developing South was new to me as well and appreciated! I had learned the ideas before, but it was fun using the terms during diplomacy and in our resolutions (as Turkey I enjoyed saying we were the bridge between the North and South). The point of orders were interesting too and though I didn't use them as much as others, they were great when wanting to question or support fellow delegates.

2. What are you most proud of, at each conference (individually)?

One of my proudest moments in the San Francisco conference was my small victory over the Greek delegation. The delegate from Greece highlighted the border conflict that currently exists with Turkey during one of my speeches. Initially, I wasn't prepared with a response, but immediately after researched the issue to gain a better understanding. I learned the conservative Greek leadership has been prolonging the issue in recent years. Turkey is a state that has been undergoing policy changes and structural reforms in order to join the EU and one of the main changes the EU requires before admission is for Turkey to settle its border conflict with Greece. A few years ago, the Greek president recently opted out of any talks in regards to settling the issue which gave me the upper hand on the dispute. The next time I went up, I was certainly ready for her attack and shot her down when she did. Proud delegate moment. In Portland, I was equally proud of myself in drafting a resolution outline with Michael overnight on the last night. In our conference we had spent most of the weekend on our first topic and only had a few hours to cover the second topic. Wanting to pass resolutions for both topics, Michael and I planned ahead and upon submitting and voting resolutions on the first topic, we begun setting up an outline for the following topic. Michael and I put work on diplomacy all weekend long so when the time came to gain support for our drafting resolution it came easy. As soon as talks for the first topic were over there was word going around that Belgium (me) already had a working resolution paper for the second topic. Delegates with the same motive to pass at least one resolution for the second topic flocked to me and I coordinated and assigned certain delegates with specific concerns with issues that complimented them. We drafted and passed a resolution within a little over an hour (won't say it was the best ever) and I give complete credit to an outstanding preparation guide and the diplomatic relations made that weekend.

3. What could have you done better in the Portland conference? How about at MUNFW?

In Portland, I gave a lot more speeches than I did in my first conference, but I could have focused my speeches towards more diplomatic speaking pertaining to the issues at hand rather than stating my stance as a country. To go into further detail, I spoke mainly of the country I was representing and not so much of the country's international relations. During our nuclear proliferation topic, I do remember calling upon the non-nuclear states that host US nuclear weapons to group up and work together on a single resolution paper which proved to be very successful. Experiencing that success I wish I did more of that diplomacy before, but certainly prepared to do so for the MUNFW. I personally thought I improved substantially since my first conference in Seattle, but still noticed much room for improvement. Though I added myself to the speaker's list every chance I could, I came to realize its more quality over quantity in speeches when it came to speaking in conferences. Yes, you can highlight a number of issues and solutions in your speeches, however, it's the delivery and the diplomacy that's initiated within the speeches that really matter. In San Francisco, I wish I understood the points of information a lot more than I did going in. Our advisors certainly exposed the class to the logistics, but I got a better understanding when seeing them in action during conference. I definitely learned the power of the point of informations when I spoke during MUNFW, especially with the continuing dispute I had with the Greek delegation in my committee. Though I didn't enjoy the point of information that initiated a vote by roll call, it was amusing to experience it after the delegate from North Korea called for it with the motive to upset the committee. Two times! Very annoying, but, again, very entertaining while the delegate did a great job putting himself in character for the country he was representing. I'm sad to write I won't be able to reflect what I learned in this conference to any future ones while I'm graduating.

4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

One of the main things I matured in after my experiences in MUN is answering questions I didn't know the answer to, appropriately. For instance, my confrontation with the Greek delegation exposed me to such. The delegate specifically highlighted the Turkish/Greek border conflict during a topic that concerned digital development. Sam at one point raised his placard for a P-23 to remind the body that the committee solely focused on economics and, not, peace keeping. True teammate. Though I had the support of my classmates to recover from questions and comments I wasn't fully prepared to answer, it still was a learning experience for me to find the right words to address the question and answer it appropriately. Another fun experience I had was networking with the chair and the executive staff. Not being a political science major I lacked the incentive to speak to staff for professional advice, but I accidently got caught up in a conversation and gained a lot actually! One of our chairs had ran for Congress unsuccessfully, but since then has been preparing for his second campaign. I don't ever see myself running for any political position, however I was entertained by the advice he had to give. Not just him, but there was a younger chair as well that I was able to relate to. Being fresh out of college, the majority of her obstacles she is currently dealing with are something I, for the most part, will be dealing with in the near future. MUN is a professional development class for me and I believe I took the most out it as I possible could and thank that to the great advisors that advised and allowed me to participate in the class.

POLS 427

Model UN

Reflection Paper

I can still remember the day when I first heard about the Model United Nations team at CI. I was taking Dr. Raj's Politics of Race and Ethnicity class and a guy walked up to me after class and introduced himself to me. His name was Tyler, and he wanted to compliment me on not only how well I spoke, but also what I spoke about. It meant a lot to receive such compliments from an obviously older and much more educated peer. He advised me to look into the Model United Nations team at CI, for he felt that I would be great in it. Unfortunately, I was unable to take the course the following semester due to being selected for the Panetta Congressional Internship Program. However, when I returned to CI that winter I told myself that I would try my hardest to join the Model United Nations team at CI. I was honored to be offered a spot on the team, and have been honored to be a part of this team ever since.

Returning from a Congressional Internship in Washington D.C., I will admit that I was pretty confident that I would know the material in this course really well. I had attended multiple Congressional briefings in D.C. that centered around United States foreign policy. I experienced panel discussions where experts talked about concepts such as the JCPOA, the elections in Kazakhstan, the status of Saudi Arabia, and even Christian minorities in Iraq. Also, the program offered me access to an amazing mentor and teacher in Secretary Leon Panetta, former Secretary of Defense and Director of the CIA. Being able to discuss policy with the Secretary was an opportunity in the program that I did not hesitate to use. Thus, upon my return I was quite confident in both my knowledge of U.S. foreign policy and how the international world operates.

However, my experiences in the Model United Nations have showed me truly how much I do not know about either of these areas.

This course has demonstrated to me that I may know a bit about the United States and its foreign policy, but I hardly know anything about the United Nations or the International community itself. The greatest facet about this course is that it forces you to look at certain global issues through the eyes of a specific state. It also demands you try your best to comprehend a state's reaction to a global issue, whether it be attempting to understand Ethiopia's involvement in global Climate Change policy, or Turkey's participation in the World Drug Crisis. The course has enabled me to look at these extremely complex issues very carefully, and not simply with a ignorant western-educated perspective. The course has also taught me that not only are these concepts multifaceted, but any responses or solutions to such problems must be multifaceted as well. I have been more than impressed with each conferences focus on incorporating the struggles of marginalized people such as indigenous communities, impoverished groups, and women and youth in any proposed solution.

In the North West Model United Nations conference I was very nervous because it was my first simulation. I was not sure how the process worked or how I would do with material that I have never really been exposed to. I am extremely grateful that Allie was there for NWUN, especially since she was in the General Assembly with me. Allie was a great experienced resource, as she was quick to offer me insight into how the process should work, and actually what strategic steps I should take in the conference. Allie really helped me a lot with areas such as resolution writing and procedural questions. However, I think that is also where my biggest weakness came from in Portland; I used Allie a lot in the process of resolution writing to the point where I felt that I left Portland still not knowing much about how to compose a working

document. I felt really successful in Portland in regards to my speeches and interacting with other delegates and their policies, but when we had to sit down and begin crafting resolutions, that is where I felt the weakest. Therefore, resolution writing was the area that I seeked to thoroughly improve upon and strengthen in San Francisco.

After my experience in Portland, I was excited for the opportunity that San Francisco offered. I was eager to really focus on resolution writing in San Francisco, especially since I was going to be by myself in the General Assembly. I prepared my talking points for the conference, but I didn't have a speech necessarily prepared. I usually like to see how the other speeches are going, then I can tailor my talking points to either advocate or critique a previously stated policy. However, it was to my surprise when I was selected as the second speaker for the speaker's list; I was consistently told that you very rarely get picked to speak in the beginning so I had simply raised my placard assuming I would speak later on that day. Unfortunately, I did not have the luxury to wait and feel out the room, so I quickly began formulating a speech while the first speaker went. Luckily, I was able to form some sort of coherent statement during my speech, and even more so, other delegates rushed to work with me after my comments. So maybe speaking earlier, even if you do not have much to say, is strategically better as it gives you some credibility amongst others.

With all of this energy coming my way in the beginning of the conference, I made sure that I was not going to come up short in the resolution writing portion of the conference. I especially felt the downside of this in Portland as similarly many delegates came eager to work with me after my strong speeches, but soon became doubtful of my abilities as I struggled to translate such talking points into strong resolutions. So I really tried to strengthen my resolution writing in San Francisco so that other delegates would feel confident in my leadership. I was

extremely fortunate to quickly form beneficial relationships with other strong delegates. These relationships were extremely helpful as the last day of the conference witnessed our small cohort of six delegates successfully reform the Security Council by restricting the veto powers of the P5. This was probably the thing that I was most proud of in San Francisco, and this entire semester, for we were not only able to sway the P5's with our words, but also with our resolution. The deis and even the Secretary General of the conference were assisting us in crafting this reform, as they were interested to see if it would be successful. Ultimately, we were able to amend the United Nations Charter and limit the powers of the P5 in the Security Council.

My experiences in both Portland and San Francisco bring me much joy when I think back on them. Not only was I able to create and foster great relationships with my fellow students and professors, but I was taught a great lesson as well. The conferences truly knocked me on my behind as I quickly learned about how complicated and multifaceted these global issues are. I think my time in D.C. helped shape my perception of the world, but my experience with the Model United Nations showed me firsthand how such a Western-educated perception of the world is created and ultimately perpetuated. I am extremely grateful for the opportunity that was given to me as it has helped me not only grow as student academically, but as a person better trying to understand my relationship with this world. I am very fortunate that this experience has offered me another possible career path; one that is not bound to local, state, or even national politics. After witnessing it firsthand, I can truly say that the Model United Nations, although a simulation, legitimately trains the next generation of world leaders eager to shape this world to help all people. I look forward to returning to the class next semester as a more senior member with a few conferences under my belt, and I am eager to help another first time student like me who was just trying to survive an intimidating environment. I hope to be also fortunate enough to be given the opportunity to work in the Security Council next semester in Seattle, truly the most intimidating environment of them all.

Reflection Paper

The Fall 2017 Northwest Model United Nations Conference in Seattle was an incredibly valuable learning experience for me, as I am sure it was for all attending delegates. I know that I will benefit from the skills that I've acquired from my first conference and I plan to implement them to the fullest extent at future conferences and in the future of my schooling and career.

Going into my very first conference, I had no idea what to expect. I was terrified (to say the least) but I was relying on my deep passion about the three topics to get me through, and it did. The most valuable takeaway for me was the importance of diplomacy and accuracy of portrayal. It is imperative that personal opinions are put aside when portraying a delegate. Once I realized this, I made sure to put my "delegate face" on and act as though I truly was India. It was beneficial for me to be in that state of shock – that last-second realization that I had to become someone else, essentially. By no means did my values align with all of India's values, but I had to completely forget about that for 3 days. It was unlike anything I've ever had to do. I was completely out of my comfort zone, and I came back a more diplomatic person with a better understanding of differing worldviews and values.

When I arrived at the first day of committee, I realized that the knowledge you must have about your country goes far beyond the two or three topics on the agenda. I had to know which countries I should be discussing particular topics with, which countries I needed to be more diplomatic with, and so on. Delegates would talk to me about negative things that India had done regarding specific topics, and I had to really think on my toes and make the conversation into something positive by focusing on progress we've made to address the issues that the delegate

had mentioned. For example, when discussing our first topic on environmental justice, Ghana began to talk to me about India's greenhouse gas emissions and how we haven't met state-specific goals regarding emissions reductions. I had to agree with him, but then began to talk about how we should collaborate and propose a resolution for our working paper on how developing countries like ourselves should be receiving more financial help from developed nations. He agreed, and we worked together later on that day.

The moment he threw those statistics at me, I froze. My heart dropped, and I felt that I would need to admit defeat. But something shifted in me, and I didn't even realize until I responded. It was unlike anything I've done. I completely turned our conversation around and made it into a resolution that we could work on *together*. That's when I thought: this is the true spirit of the United Nations. It isn't about being right. It isn't about being better. It's about collaboration, cohesiveness, diplomacy, and the creation of resolutions.

This experience helped me to gain the confidence to group delegates together and enhance collaboration, which I did a lot of during the second half of the second day as well as on the third day of committee. I, with the help of Uruguay, took the lead in many situations. As a result, delegates were having me look over their resolutions and speeches and many of them asked me for insight. The feeling I had during those moments was indescribable. All of my doubts in myself and about my abilities became total nonsense.

I didn't realize the accomplishments that I had made until it was over. As a passionate person, I went into the conference worried that I wouldn't be able to conceal my emotions regarding the issues at hand. I'm proud of my newfound ability to think rationally and quickly, to propose feasible solutions, and to set personal feelings aside and work with delegates that I may not agree with in the "real world."

At first, I was shy and intimidated by the other delegates, but I quickly learned how to gain respect from others – through diplomacy. The main theme of my speeches was about cohesiveness in planning, and my last speech was a thank you to all delegates for exemplifying the true spirit of the United Nations through collaboration. I truly feel that I came back from this conference as a different person, as I have already applied the skills I've acquired in every day life since then.

Although I am able to recognize the things I am proud of, I can also recognize some of the areas I could work on to better prepare for the next conferences. First and foremost, I feel that I could have done more research on relationships that India has with other countries. I ended up working with sort of a random mix of countries that I realized India probably wouldn't normally work with. However, I feel that I learned even more because of this.

Another thing that I need to work on is getting involved more. I spoke three times, which was more than most delegates did. I still feel that I had so much more information to share and so many more ideas to contribute, but I felt that I was going to sound unintelligent or be wrong about something. Next time, I am going to be more confident, have more facts and statistics ready to throw out there, and I am not going to let my fear hold me back from putting myself on the speakers list even when I don't have a speech readily prepared. I left the conference wishing I had said so much more regarding each topic, and I am going to see to it that that never happens again.

This conference not only taught me a great deal about the nature of the United Nations, international relations, diplomacy, and how to be a better delegate, but it also taught me about how to be a better person. I now have negotiation skills that I didn't have prior to the conference. I am more comfortable speaking in front of large groups of people, and I feel confident enough

to be more engaged in the next conferences. I have learned that nothing good comes out of letting fear get the best of you – and this applies to every day life.

The experience validated my choice to someday have a career in environmental policy. It brought out a side of me that I didn't realize was there and made me realize that all of my doubts regarding my ability to be a leader/policymaker were completely irrational. My passion for environmental law and policy was solidified through the realization of my true ability to lead a group, find applicable laws, and suggest feasible resolutions to very complex global issues.

I am incredibly lucky to have had this experience. I know that it changed me in more ways than I can write in this paper. I am looking forward to future conferences and will implement the many lessons I've learned from this experience. By recognizing the things that I need to work on, I will continue to prepare myself for adverse situations where I may need to think on my feet and put myself out of my comfort zone.

Reflecting on Model UN

Overall, participating in Model UN has taught me a lot about international relations and about the process required to form resolution papers. In order for delegates to follow the demands given by the central government of which they represent, they must balance specificity and compromise. By representing Spain, I had to consider policies that paralleled not only Madrid, but also Madrid as encompassed by the European Union as a whole. During informal sessions I worked to find neighboring states like Portugal and France in order to form smaller groups. From there, we worked to find papers that upheld our values most accurately, representing each individual nation and Western Europe alike. By merging with other member states, especially those from other geographic regions, compromise then became a necessary step in order to pass forward a working paper to the dais. Although in Model UN we had limited and vague standards of what and how to spend a nation's finances, we still had to work within political limits that helped me to better understand the reality of international relations as a whole. During committee session one and two, Georgia had great ideas for how nations can partner with private sector leaders and corporations in order to better promote the Sustainable Development Goals set by the United Nations.

After Georgia's speech I quickly greeted the delegate with interest and we continued to form our business sector policies through passing notes and discussing with other nations. The biggest block for us to form a private sector initiative in the European Union was to work with Russia, of whom Georgia was rigidly opposed to. Getting around various political tensions, the paper was absorbed into a larger working paper and the utter political momentum forced Russia to come alongside Georgia where many of the P-5 were already doing so. The outcome during

session one and two, taught me the role of political momentum, how to use other nations to indirectly alternate the actions of an opposing force. Georgia was able to steer Russia by way of using other large member states, doing more in community than the delegate could have done so alone. In a sense we were playing chess with pieces that all wanted a similar goal, yet these pieces were encompassed by large cultural barriers of which also had to be considered.

I am most proud of my ability to come into Model UN with little knowledge of the specific rules for committee, especially the HLPF, and to not only move with the rhythm of the committee but also contribute to it. In the beginning I was a bit lost in understanding the flow of the HLPF, although by getting on the speaker's list early I was able to share Spain's specific policies and make a clear presence early into the conference. I continued to be highly engaged in some of the largest papers that were being written, and worked well with communicating between different member states. In the beginning of committee session one, two and three I was able to gain enough momentum through my speeches that I had various member states come to me to discuss starting a paper. During my speeches I mentioned various topics, including sustainable fisheries, environmental finance programs and the desire to work with specific nations, that all resulted in the formation of working papers that later were combined to form our committee's final resolution papers. I am proud that I was involved enough to the degree that specific policies I mentioned were ultimately recognized by the chair in various papers.

Various things I could have done better at the conference relate to my time preparing before the conference took place. Having the knowledge I do now it is clear that I not only need to understand Spain's specificities in terms of reaching the SDGs set within the HLPF for discussion, but I needed a better and more holistic comprehension of the SDGs in total. I found myself confused a few times during the discussion of various initiatives and policies. It isn't just

a position paper that I needed but rather an entire research database of UN initiatives, their successes, failures and how other nations views differ from mine. There was simply too much compromise between nations for me to believe that we all had a strong understanding of what each nation would actually desire to do and not to. Due to the extreme level of compromise in the HLPF over the entire weekend it is difficult for me to believe that other students were more prepared than I was. Even so, if I was to do this again I would have used class time more seriously and asked more about background research. I do not feel I was as prepared as I could have been in light of having had eleven weeks of classes beforehand.

The experience taught me a lot about myself. I learned more about what interests me and what does not interest me. I am interested in international relations, maybe even more than ever. I am, however, not interested broad political brush strokes that do not actually have specific plans or actions. Something that frustrated me about Model UN was the compromises that were made to make everyone happy. I really am not interested in conversations that emphasize values without plans. I understand that Model UN is not the UN and that the international arena is complex to a degree I can only imagine. However, where I want to spend my time working is in the private sector where SDGs can be met in specific, community level practices that are small enough to stay accurate and relative to the culture in which they persist. Combining my work, internship, studies and Model UN experiences really has helps me to appreciate and better understand the UN as a whole. I am a supporter of the UN, although with my internship in Portau-Prince, Haiti and the discussions that I have had in Geneva, Switzerland taught me that large-scale policies made by outside communities can negatively affect communities when those who are placed in decision making roles are not from the local community.

In my perspective, the best programs I visited in Haiti, the best initiatives I learned about in Switzerland and the best working papers I worked on in Model UN all incorporated the developing nations to have a voice as much as the nations of whom the funding was coming from. The best resolution paper I read all weekend was written in committee session three, discussing ocean conservation. Why was the paper so detailed, specific and accurate? I believe because large contributions were made by small-island states like Trinidad and Tobago, and Cuba where the global community came together, not to promote selfish gains but rather assist the nations in need. It is on the community level where change really takes place.

Professor Grove/Professor Scholl

POLS 427: Model United Nations

December 6, 2016

Reflection

Being a member of the Model United Nations team has been one of the highlights of my college career. Model United Nations has given me the opportunity to learn more about the international community, the United Nations, and myself. Model United Nations really has given me the hands-on opportunity I have been seeking my entire college career. Attending the Seattle conference at first was quite intimidating to me. Prior to attending the conference, I found myself overwhelmed with the plethora of information provided, yet nervous due to conference placing much of the delegate preparation at the last minute. Furthermore, I found myself creating false expectations and situations that would not occur at the conference. However, once committee began, I began to feel comfortable with my preparation and with the individuals around me.

Like many of the staff at the conference said, Seattle is a learning conference. While at Seattle, I was given numerous opportunities to learn about my skills, the United Nations, and diplomacy. In order for resolutions to happen, it takes compromise and the ability to approach each situation with the desire to represent your state well and achieve their respective interests. For this to occur, it takes proper diplomacy between the states. Each state must be willing to listen to the others, and when speaking be tactical in what is said and what is left as an assumption. In my committee, much of the conference was discussing the illicit trade of firearms. When representing India, it was difficult to find a balance of being a state that is dedicated to diplomacy and a state that also encourages strict laws in terms of firearms. Furthermore, I found it difficult because India

has a large trade of illicit firearms despite all of the domestic laws in place. I was able to find the balance be scripting myself much of the time to advocate for strict guns, while also making sure to be friendly to states with less strict laws.

When it came to working on the draft resolutions, it took strategic negotiations between the states I worked with. The group I worked with included the United Kingdom, South Korea, Mongolia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, and a few other states. At first, I was working with South Asian states, but after a few unmoderated sessions, there was a merger with some of the European states. After solidifying this group, I had planned to merge with another European block, but there were issues where egos got in the way, and a stalemate in terms of compromise. One of the items I was unwilling to budge on was the Arms Trade Treaty due to India abstaining from voting on it and be vocal in their opposition to it. However, I was willing to accept weak language about the treaty if it meant uniting more states, but at the end of the conference, I was unable to accomplish this. This experience taught me that in order for negotiations to work, each side must be willing to list their goals, be willing to compromise, and ultimately set their egos to the side.

When it comes to what I was proud of throughout the conference was my performance with speeches and work on draft resolutions. I felt I was able to draft a few quality speeches in front of the entire committee. Instead of being repetitive like some of the other delegates, I felt each time I spoke I would present new ideas, help to further the goals of my state and advance the conversation as a whole by speaking of ideas that others had not mentioned publicly. One of the speeches I was most proud of was during a moderated session where I mentioned about stockpiles and working to destroy surpluses of stockpiles to combat the issue. When I made this quick speech I received a few notes from other states who wanted to work with me and also when the next unmoderated session began, I had a group of other states around me looking to hear my ideas and

looking to come together to work on the issue. Ultimately, because of this speech I was able to pull numerous signatories to the draft resolution I was working on. Furthermore, I had other states coming up to me the entire weekend complimenting my speech and bouncing their ideas off me. I was also quite proud of the effort of everyone on our team. The number of awards won by the team pumped me up. I was also proud of how Drake and I worked tirelessly to merge our working papers, even though it never happened.

Throughout the conference, and even prior, what I could have done was research. It is crucial to research not only your country and their stances on the topic, but also to understand how others around you stand on the issue. If you are able to understand how others around you stand, it will make it easier to navigate towards those with similar interests and ultimately will make drafting resolutions simpler. I believe I had done a good job researching my country and their stances but did not fully grasp the subject at hand. Had I spent more time engaging in researching the topic, and other stances across the world, I feel I could have contributed more toward my draft resolutions. I also feel I would have done more speeches.

This experience also allowed me to learn more about the skills I already possess and those in which I strive to obtain. I knew prior to the conference that I was a quality public speaker, but after the compliments received, I feel I am a better speaker than I had initially thought I was. I also learned that I am willing to compromise if it means inclusion. Throughout the conference, I had noticed many individuals were closed off to including others, while much of the conference I tried to be inclusive of others. Furthermore, I was willing to include individuals in the discussion even if they had conflicting ideas because it gave the opportunity to improve discussion and draft resolutions. I also learned I have some basic skills in negotiation and argumentation. Although my negotiation skills did not get the merger I was working hard for, I still was able to learn that I have

some skill in this area and now strive to improve it so I can hopefully negotiate more effectively. In terms of argumentation, I learned I have skill in this area when working to set the agenda. I was able to convince a few people that I had valid points in how I wanted to set the agenda but was unable to fully get them to side with me. Like negotiation, I hope to improve my argumentative skills.

In conclusion, I am glad I decided to step outside my comfort zone and apply to be a member of the Model United Nations team. Overall, the experience has been one of the highlights of my college career. Although I was not as prepared as I should have been, going forward into the next semester I hope be more prepared and have more proud moments to look back upon. Lastly, this opportunity has taught me a lot about international relations and myself. At the end of the day, being about the simulation is a better learning experience than being on the sidelines reading about all the items learned via a textbook.

Model UN

12/6/17

Reflection Paper

In comparison to the prior MUN conferences we've done in the past, as well recalling back to when I first entered MUN, I can definitely detect some overlap in what has been taken in before, but I still find myself learning new ideas and receiving new feedback to keep improving the quality of my work. This semester I was given the opportunity represent Trinidad and Tobago in the High Level Political Forum, or HLPF, and had the privilege to connect with student delegates from a vast host of schools from a range of areas to discuss the climbing adverse impacts of climate change and pursuing sustainable development directed by the Sustainable development goals One of the immediate uncertainties that I had to confront was diving into the actual HLPF body, as well as ascertain the dynamic and flow on how to address the topics before the committee. In comparison to other committees that I have participated in the past, the HLPF came with separate instructions, as expressed in their distinct mannerisms in which they approach the topics, as well as how delegates are expected to conduct their working papers, but most importantly the fact that HLPF sessions are geared towards consensus building negotiations in suggestive designed framework. When I first participated in NWMUN in the Fall 2016, it felt like a daunting experience to me at first just because I still in the process of acquiring the language of MUN and committee etiquette. However, even after the first conference, getting past that point I'm still learning an abundance of great ideas and becoming familiar with the other delegates' and schools' approach to the event. One of the interesting things that I was able to grasp on and implement in working group sessions and develop is the concept of public to private partnerships, with the trajectory of emphasizing and promoting sustainable development within the body. What I was educated in about these partnerships is the utilization of these mitigation strategies as it connects different sectors under the one collective initiative, and has allowed room for diplomatic discourse to include the involvement of different levels of authority. Just being able to share insights and developed ideas like that served me greatly on how I went

about engaging with other delegates on the issues we had, but it also lent me a sense of confidence in formulating strong working papers.

Along with taking in a panoply of great and insightful information, all these quality levers aided me in hashing out speakers list statements, and through the consistent circulation of knowledge and communication of other delegate's interests, I was able to make more motions to speak in the body and incorporate holistic language that was inclusive of other member state's needs. One thing that I stand by for following through was just my overall degree of involvement in the HLPF, and just having the level of confidence and experience on how talks on international interests should be facilitated. As the delegate of Trinidad and Tobago, I was bestowed the honor to represent environmentally concerned issues of climate change and degradation, while delivering protection, inclusion, and liberation of poor life quality to vulnerable populations, and as such an active member within CARICOM and the UN, I was emotionally invested in trying to simulate a true delegate of an internationally committed state. As an active member in negotiations, I gradually assumed the role as a the de facto observed "runner" for a number of working paper that I had spent energy and focus in. I ultimately adopted a focus of getting to become familiar with the body entirely and was on the edge of exhaustion due to the actual physical activity I was putting into this role. I was also proud to have attained the ear of the dais, as I was able to take the speaker's podium twice, with both addresses being slightly impromptu delivered statements, but it was confidence level behind them that made the experience so fulfilling and accomplishing; also partially due to the fact that I remember most of if making sense but probably less convincing than how I actual though it my statements out. Adding on that, along with being more engaging with the body via speaker's list, I was able to discuss with other delegates through a more structured platform, which was the moderated caucus sessions where it's taken at a simmered down debate interplay, and again, I actually felt good about standing up and delivering a seemingly composed and cohesive statement. It was after my visible activity and notable participation with diplomatic relations, as more delegates were comfortable approaching me, but most important of all was the fact that these other people sought me out to work.

What I could've done better for this conference is always the amount of research put into the country's profile and real life statements, as opposed to just grazing the surface for some areas of my position paper. One particular committee issue for the HLPF was our second topic, which revolved around a sustainable development that called for the improvement of women participation and paving more opportunities, however, when compared to the other topics that had conducted research in, there wasn't as much success in the results. Apparently Trinidad and Tobago has made so many strides in gender engagement and equality that the entire country has gradually moved on from the issue and has seized all publications and discussions around it. On another note, something else that could've been executed better was keeping track of where delegates had fallen on the spectrum for these topics, and by virtue of that it was a bit disorganized in trying to piece together who would be productive to work with. On top of that, it was also a bit of a struggle figuring out who was which delegate, but eventually I caught onto recognizing faces to countries.

1. What are the most important things you learned by participating in the Model UN conference? Please focus on what you have learned about international relations, diplomacy, negotiations, etc.?

The Model UN conference allowed me the opportunity to see how the international community reaches consensus on issues that affect the entire world. Through this experience, I was able to see firsthand the negotiations that take place between different member states. For example, as Trinidad and Tobago and discussing causes of conflict in Africa, my main argument was to address the causes of conflict, such as mitigating the effects of transnational crime by combating the illicit trade of arms. As part of the agreement, drugs and human trafficking were brought up. There was a clear correlation between the trade of illicit arms and drugs and human trafficking. While Trinidad and Tobago pushed for creative solutions to address all three of those problems, many of the member states did not agree with the solutions aimed at addressing drug trafficking. In order to reach consensus, we had to agree to change the language away from drugs and towards more neutral language that would be approved by all.

Additionally, the conference showed me that although each delegate is in the room to represent the best interest of their member state that the entire goal of the conference is to reach consensus. This level of diplomacy was something I have not experienced in other scenarios. The differences were set aside between the different member states and delegates worked together as a whole. This showed me that overall, the international community does view the world as one large community that has to coexist amongst each other. The entire process of drafting resolutions provided great insight on how member states actively participate in the resolution of

important global issues. After seeing this in person, it then made sense on how resolutions in my research were drafted and passed by acclamation.

2. What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of the fact that although representing a small island developing state, my voice was heard and played a large part in the conversation towards finding solutions. I was able to interact freely with all delegates and by the end of the conference, the whole room knew Trinidad and Tobago. Additionally, I advocated for Trinidad and Tobago in the Security Council elections simulation. I was able to pass through three rounds of voting and come out of my regional block as the leading candidate. However, in the end, Costa Rica secured a seat on the Security Council. Although I was not successful in securing the seat for Trinidad and Tobago, I was impressed by the way in which I had to campaign, maintain face, and respond to questions on how Trinidad and Tobago's membership would be beneficial to the Security Council as a whole. This was the most rewarding part of my experience because it felt like a real election where I was put on the hotspot and had to be knowledgeable about international relations and Trinidad and Tobago. This is where I was able to show the amount of research that went into preparation. It was also an important take away for me as I constantly take things personally and this allowed me the opportunity to look at the elections through the lenses of the different member states and realize that it was not personal but merely voting based on how delegates individual member states would vote.

3. What could you have done better at the conference?

In order to perform better at the conference, I could have been better prepared in terms of overall international relations and the issue at hand. A majority of my research prior to the conference was centered on Trinidad and Tobago and did not take into account the issue at hand

and how to best draft perambulatory and operative clauses for UN resolutions. I would have wished that my research was more on the topic at hand and in this case, for example, sustainable development in Africa. I feel that I could have as well been more prepared ahead of time in terms of the relationships that Trinidad and Tobago would maintain in the real world. I also wasn't expecting things to kick off as fast as they did. Within the first thirty seconds in the room, delegates were asking for my position on the topics and what my thoughts were. In order to better prepare for the future conference, I am going to direct my research towards the actual issue at hand and not necessarily focus primarily on the position of my state. Additionally, I do not feel as if there was any preparation regarding draft resolution papers. The conference itself focused on this all weekend and prior to sitting down and working through one, I had not fully understood the logistics. In the GA, the main focus was on combining draft resolutions and this became logistically challenging when combining multiple groups papers.

4. What did this experience teach you about yourself?

This experience taught me that I can be confident when being put on the spot and speaking in front of a room of people on issues that I am actually not well versed on. Normally, when public speaking, I rely heavily on notecards or talking points and talking off the cuff has always been a challenge. The conference gave me the opportunity to do just that. There were times in either moderated debate or when a delegate would make a comment prior to me speaking and I would want to respond and have to continuously adjust what I was going to talk about. Additionally, this experience solidified my passion for working with policy, whether that be an elected official or a diplomat in a foreign country. After coming back from the conference, I researched available position in the UN as I graduate in May. This experience has shown me that this is something I could see myself doing for the rest of my life.

Model UN Reflection

This Model UN semester made me queasy at first, with a basically whole new team to prep I felt scared that we might not do well. Fast forward after the conference and I see now that I was completely off of the mark, the team blew it out of the water and there are awards to prove it.

At first the team was prepared by both Dr. Scholl and Dr. Grove for this conference and with four returning delegates, myself included, we all worked hard to ensure that everyone would feel comfortable and prepared. Through multiple mock sessions and an in depth explanation on how to write resolutions the team was prepared to be at the forefront of their committees.

This semester I was on the Security Council and that was a hurdle in itself for me.

Previously I had only done ECOSOC or ECOSOC subsidiaries but Security Council is a whole different body and I was not too sure what to expect. I knew going in that I would have to be ready for a high level debate with delegates who knew what they were doing and that it would be slightly out of my comfort zone. I prepped by having old CSUCI Model UN delegates tell me about their experiences within the Security Council, I researched which states would be represented there and I went on from that. Initially I researched every issue on the topic list and I picked the one that would be best suited for my state, I was able to develop stances on each topic but there was one that would represent my state in the best light. Writing the working paper was difficult because there was so many facts and details that I wanted to add into the paper with only a limited amount of space.

I wanted to be as informed as possible and I added all of the information into my position paper and now I realize that I should have focused a little more on the third portion of the paper, the "what would you do?" portion of the paper. The paper was difficult to write but I did the best I could for that paper, I even took extra measures to have a previous delegate review my paper. Looking back now I would have minimized my second and paragraph to leave more room for my third paragraph that contains my state's plan in what to do and how. At the NWMUN conference I sat down for the first committee session to begin and I was glad that the conference was extremely educational and accommodating in general, each person in charge went out of their way to ensure that things were going as they should. Although there were moments when delegates were not doing what they were supposed to in committee that is to be expected.

The Model UN is more than a class, it gives more than just a grade and a trip. It encourages confidence, it brings foreign policy knowledge into a society that is severely lacking in that department. It creates a bond within our delegation and it brings education in a whole other level. There is no way I could be as interested in foreign policy without Model UN, there is no way I would have the confidence to debate and to help other delegates with their work without the Model UN. This class essential not just to Political Science students or to Global Study students but to all students. All students from every major would benefit from this course and this past conference showcased that perfectly by having numerous majors come together to work as a delegation and in return bring success.

Having this be my last semester in the Model UN brings me great sadness but having the opportunity to work with the students and faculty that I have worked with is priceless. I have learned so much from this course and if it were up to me I would take it time and time again. I

recommend this course to everyone	and I truly	believe this	course l	brings e	ducational	experience
that cannot be found elsewhere.						

Professors Grove & Scholl

POLS 427

6 December 2017

Model United Nations Reflection

The entire semester leading up to the conference had me feeling quite anxious about having to perform in committee. These feelings intensified the day we arrived in Seattle and would peak on Friday morning as I began to accept that there was no other choice but to face reality. Of course, the conference itself was not at all as intimidating as I had tortured myself into believing, but nonetheless the first day of being in committee was not the most comfortable. This was mostly since it was my first time in a professional environment, especially for such an extended amount of time. I feared that the constant formality would become overbearing and soul-crushing, but after the first day I managed to get a feel for the overall vibe and began to settle into the environment comfortably enough. Once I was past that hurdle, I began to appreciate the event more in terms of being able to interact with many other students from a variety of different places who all had a similar interest in global politics. This also greatly enhanced my appreciation of working together with other students as we basically became colleagues working together toward similar goals. Funny enough, it essentially boiled down to working on another academic paper, but on a much greater scale since everyone was contributing the same few documents which eventually became two resolutions due to the merging of some of the groups. In that sense, the process of crafting a resolution struck me as familiar, but novel at the same time. The only real difference of course, being the intervals of time when the meeting was formally in session with all the different member states going up to speak. It is this aspect that I feel was my weakest.

It is true that, we had a couple of mock sessions leading up to our departure for the conference, however, I never felt totally comfortable with going up to speak. I do not consider myself to be particularly shy or afraid to speak in front of people in general, so I would guess it has more to do with the formality in which speeches must be formatted. I'm not entirely sure if there is anything I can do about it other than to simply keep trying until I get better, but knowing that there is a limited time to make my point made it difficult to stay focused on making a coherent point. Related to this, was working on making connections with other member states because the conversation was constantly evolving and not being outspoken enough makes it far too easy to fall behind and become irrelevant. This is not to say that I did not speak at all, indeed I spoke out a few times, but if I were to choose an area that needs the most improvement, I would choose this one. Being an outspoken delegate goes hand in hand with being a proactive delegate in general which was something I struggled to keep up with a bit. While my role as a prominent speaker could have been better, I am happy to report that my performance was not mediocre in general. As mentioned earlier, one of the things I thought to be engaging was my interactions with other delegates and being able to work together to find information to solidify our working papers. In this regard, I believe my performance was good. My ability to research and contribute information and resources to my fellow delegates was something I can look back on and feel proud. I am also proud of the fact that a couple of my ideas went into the perambulatory and operative clauses and managed to survive the merging with another working paper which itself was also an interesting thing to experience since I got to see teamwork in action at relatively large scale that resulted in a comprehensive and overall solid resolution.

In terms of what I learned about myself however, is that I may not be as confident when it comes to public speaking as I thought before. At the very least, I am not as confident when it

comes to speaking in all contexts. In a way, this goes along with going through this learning experience because so much of it was new to me and by the time I had become even somewhat comfortable, the conference was coming to an end and the resolution was practically done. Overall, it seems to me that what I learned about myself is simply that I need to improve my formal speaking abilities, being able to think on my feet, as well as being able to negotiate effectively. Although the UNESCO committee was not some super-competitive contest, even cooperation can be a challenge. This brings to mind what I have read about the UN in our textbook and what I had learned in Peace Studies, that is, diplomacy is a slow and sometimes painstaking process. Because even in the cooperative environment of a UNESCO committee where the stakes are relatively low, everyone needs to bring their A-game if the hope is to finish a resolution and get it passed. Not only that, but resolutions are not enforceable in the real world, so it makes me wonder how much effort it must take to make a significant and positive difference in the world. This may sound rather cynical, but one of my fellow delegates on the last day of committee was speaking with me and said that in the end, all this effort is for nothing because no one will read the resolution. This however, was not the most cynical part of it because he also said that it felt almost like the actual UN in the sense that most people will not care or benefit from the passing of a resolution. Personally, I don't buy into the cynicism and he was probably just joking, but it did make me appreciate the process of trying to build a better world through sustainable development. All those delegates at the real UN having to sit in these committees for probably a much longer time than we did, and attempting to get along as best as possible in order to simply come to an agreement to acknowledge that there is a problem. Their actions also have to reflect the real world on a stricter level because money for funding has to come from somewhere and then states have the ability to do what they want, choose not to

cooperate, and generally make diplomacy a real struggle. In our case, we basically listed NGO's to provide funding and access to the plans we were crafting in the resolution without worrying how certain NGO's would react and how certain states would react as well. Even with this simulation, the process was long, tedious, though also interesting. In fact, our committee barely got through the first topic as the final meeting day came to a close and we only managed to merge into two resolutions.

Overall, the Model UN was a positive experience that offered a lot of things at once. I got to visit another city, attend a professional event for the first time, meet and work with a lot of new people, as well as discover new things about myself when it comes to working in a formal environment where results are expected. Though I could have done better, I think it went well enough for my first time that I can look back on the experience positively and perhaps improve a bit the next time I try it.

Reflection Paper

The Model UN conference showed me how complex it is to solve international issues. Every state has a different agenda they are pushing to benefit the people in their state or to benefit those who hold power in their state. This makes it hard for states who hold different perspectives on a topic to collaborate and find a resolution that both agree to. The Model UN conference showed that wording in political matters is important because it allows for other states to be more open to an idea. I also learned how important having a platform and vote is on solving issues. It also displayed the importance of a monitor political debate and how beneficial it is to understanding different perspectives on political issues. Lastly, the conference also showed the importance of sovereignty is for states and sovereignty must be a top consideration, when making any international agreement or resolution.

Different perspectives were seen in my committee between the developed and developing states. The developed states were more focused on finding a resolution to stop anti-doping, gender inequalities, and how playing sports can progress the Sustainability Agenda of 2030 in their own states. The developing states were focused on creating and maintaining the ability to foster sports for their states. Most of the developing states were not in agreement with those same core focuses because their states needed to focus on general development. The developing states were focused on trying to grow sports and develop programs to implement. The states lack the ability to focus on sports because most had other crucial problem to fix before sports. The divided between the states made it hard to negotiate. This showed if the delegates at the

conference were struggling with creating an agreement, the delegates of the UN have a tedious task to create resolutions.

The conference also displayed the importance of wording is in a document such as the resolution paper. Everything we wrote in the paper was written to be as a suggestion. I felt this was something all the delegates, including myself, were struggling with it. We wanted a definite resolution for every state to follow, but our chair reminded us the UN has no real authority and can only make these documents for a suggestion. Therefore, all the wording must be in a suggested, allowing states to interpret the resolution to best fit their agenda.

The final concept I learned about international affairs was the importance of maintaining sovereignty in each state. Sovereignty is important internationally because each state hold their own power. This makes it difficult to find and equal balance for resolutions between states in conflict with each other. Overall, I have a new found respect for the UN and the goals they try to accomplish together.

I felt that I could have been more prepared for the conference. My semester has been extremely difficult, so it was hard for me to put the attention I need into my research. I felt I knew a good amount about the topic Sports for Peace and Development, but I was not able to find enough information the Freedom of Expression and Media Development. I also felt I could have done better at researching the information on states that did not agree with me. I felt this would have help me understand where the developing states focus was at, so the disagreement would have not occurred.

I also believed I could have talked more during the moderate debates. I felt I had ways to rebuttal some information and comments other delegates where stating, but I did not want to speak. I also could have helped more with the actual writing of the paper. I gave my suggestion,

but I gave them orally and I felt I lacked the understanding of writing a working paper. If I would have put more effort into writing the working paper, I felt I would have had a more instrumental leadership role.

This experience taught me to continue to step outside of my comfort zone. Throughout the conference I felt uncomfortable or out of place because other students knew a lot about international policy. Even though I felt out of place I found myself contributing to the working paper and everyone was very positive and quick to take my considerations and add them in. This showed me the knowledge I have is valuable, and I can contribute to the greater goal, but I must get myself to share the ideas for them to be helpful. I felt better once I shared because I realized it was not hard to speak and most of the other delegates felt just as nervous or anxious as me.

This experience also taught me I am interested in exploring international relations. I enjoyed learning about the different states and the needs that are not being met in the states. International politics also allows for relationship to be built from around the world. I was able to experience by talking to different delegates from across the United States and Canada. When talking to the other delegates from different states were able to share the differences between the normal day to day life. I also was able to talk to some international students, who also shared how they go through school and their experience compared to the United States. The different perspectives make me feel the urge to go and travel to experience what my fellow delegates were sharing with me.

I am most proud of my eagerness to collaborate and communicate throughout the conference. Typically, it takes me awhile to feel comfortable to speak in front of an audience or even to speak into a small group setting. I usually like to observe a situation for a while in order speak, but this conference was very fast pace I felt the urge to speak. I really wanted to push the

agenda for Sports for Peace Development over Freedom of Expression and Media Development.

Most of the other delegates who went to speak first to set the agenda wanted Freedom of

Expression, so I decided to speak to push for Sports.

I am also most proud of the bond and friendships I was able to create throughout the weekend. Before the weekend I did not know my peers from CI very well. Throughout the trip we were able to bond over the experience and shared memories that we could keep after we leave CI. I felt we became close, because we experience the conference together and we were there for each other when we need to vent or needed information on how to do certain things throughout the conference. I never knew the class would become as close as we did. I enjoyed getting to know other delegates from different schools. The delegates and my peers made me feel comfortable to share some of my experiences I have gone through and other share their experience of other Model UN conferences they had attended. Some delegates were speaking about Portland and San Francisco conference, which made me eager to join again. Overall, I am most proud I took the step to join the Model UN class because it taught me so much and now finishing one semester I ready to come back more prepared and ready for the other conferences.

Model UN Reflection Paper

During the preparation for and participation in my first Model United Nations conference, I not only learned more about international relations but I learned differently than I ever have before. Independently taking on the persona of a country that I had little previous knowledge of was definitely a challenge. Knowing that I would be representing my university and feeling such a large lack of knowledge fueled my research to be as in depth as possible. The research I conducted to prepare for Model UN furthered my understanding of the intricate connections that exist in the international political world. Learning about Trinidad and Tobago wasn't enough – I needed to understand politics and culture in the Caribbean as a whole, where Trinidad and Tobago was most connected to in terms of Latin American states, and then outside of geographic terms, which large nations it relied on. The remnants of colonialism were so clearly seen, especially with Trinidad and Tobago's membership in the Commonwealth, and I found it incredibly interesting to learn about how colonialism has affected small-island nations, while focusing specifically on one case.

I have never participated in anything like Model United Nations, so negotiating with delegates from other nations and having to predict and understand their viewpoints was initially challenging. There were times in which, in an effort to reach out to other countries, I would reference them in my speeches, but I learned to be vaguer when some countries took what I said as me tying them to my resolutions and ideas. Sometimes, it would seem as if a resolution was going perfectly, but then we would have to adjust even single lines in order to accommodate nations who wanted to be signatories but could not agree with the resolution as a whole.

I participated in the UNESCO committee, and we only got to one of our topics, which was Sport for Peace and Development. While we hit a few roadblocks as a committee along the way, Sport for Peace and Development is not a particularly controversial topic. At times, I felt as

if we were simply re-writing the same resolutions which had been passed. When we began our conversations during the first unmoderated session, we began making big and specific plans for how to utilize sport as a tool for development in developing nations. We were talking mostly of specific programs, but we soon realized that we would have to find programs like this that already existed. Our job as UNESCO was to create a resolution with suggestions for all states to follow to best utilize sport, not to act as NGO's or build specific programs. Once we had our goals in mind, then gathering the ideas and programs that we already knew worked and supplementing them with new ideas for accountability and funding became easier.

Working on a topic for Sport for Peace and Development also really clarified how similar the basic needs of the world's countries are. Nearly the entire committee collaborated on our resolutions, and when we didn't collaborate our resolutions held nearly the same values at the core. At first, working on a resolution where Russia and the United States and Iran and Trinidad and Tobago and Nepal all created one document which easily fit our needs seemed like a flaw in the "simulated learning" aspect of Model UN. However, I thought critically about the notions we were putting forward: that access to sport and physical education is social right, that sport can be used within developing communities to sustainably develop economies and contribute to the well-being of citizens, and that sport can promote tolerance and peace. Despite the differences in religion, geography, and politics between these nations, these ideas were shared to some extent. I then remembered that the previous UN resolutions on Sport for Peace and Development were supported by those who were supporting it in our simulation that day. I look forward to one day having a topic in which there isn't so much direct agreement, but the diplomacy and collaboration that my committee was able to participate in was a great introduction to what Model United Nations stands for.

I am definitely the most proud that I didn't let the fear of messing up or the fact that this was my first conference get in the way of participating to my fullest. I have never had an issue speaking in front of people, but when I got up to give my agenda setting speech my voice shook like I was about to cry. I've never really experienced that before, so it definitely threw me off a little bit and made me think that I wasn't as confident as I had thought I was. But I put my name right back on the speakers list and next time I got up I was able to speak clearly and shake some of the nerves. I was nervous that because I was Trinidad and Tobago I didn't have much to contribute to the big states like the UK, the US and Russia, but I introduced myself to fellow delegates anyways and started a resolution anyways and just tried to put all of the research I had done to good use. I am proud that I won an award for my position paper and as a delegate, because I think that is does reflect the effort I put in and the leadership I showed, but I can't pretend I walked into the committee room feeling like I had any idea what I was doing.

I did not contribute as much to the resolution as I think I should have. Very early on I somehow assumed a leadership role for those in the group we had formed, and I spent the conference collaborating, delegating, editing and brain-storming, but my contribution to the actual written resolution was very little. It didn't seem like anyone noticed, but I was very aware of one, that I wasn't contributing very much to the bare bones of the resolution, but also two, that if it were up to me, I'm not positive I could have written it the ways my team-members were. I read countless resolutions in preparation for this conference, but I think in preparation for next conference I will definitely be studying the phrasing and structure of resolutions more so that I am prepared to do more of that kind of work. I did not like feeling like I couldn't mimic the wording that was needed on the spot, and I would definitely like to be able to be a better contributor and a better editor the next time I write a resolution.

The biggest thing I learned about myself is that I am a leader, and people listen to me, even when I have to intention of taking on that role. I've already noticed this quality about myself growing throughout my time in university, during group projects and in class, but usually it felt like I was just the only one who cared and everyone else was more or less apathetic. It was nice to be in a room of people who wanted to be here for the same reason, and had prepared as much as I had, and still gain their respect and be seen as someone who they wanted to look to or work with. I had as little idea what I was doing as anyone else did going in to their first Model UN conference, but I trusted my gut and faked confidence and it worked for me. Being able to tell myself that I am a leader and have these types of abilities has really bolstered my confidence in academic areas and in other parts of my life, and I am glad that I was able to explore not only my interests in politics and international relations at Model UN, but use the creative side of my mind to come to conclusions and collaborate with students from all over.

Reflection Paper

1. What are the most important things you learned by participating in the Model UN conference? Please focus on what you have learned about international relations, diplomacy, negotiations, etc.?

One of the most important things I learned about participating in the Model UN conference was how approachable and diplomatic one must be to make progress in the committees. Luckily, I didn't have a problem coming up to people and representing Spain gave me an advantage as most delegates were curious on my stance on issues while I was representing a state that has global influence. Other delegates that represented smaller states and hardly participated weren't so lucky. Another lessoned learned was a delegate really had to know their country as well as their international relations with others to make progress easier. Yes, regionals partners are easy to work with, but also having allies outside the region can make international agreements effective. Diplomacy can be nasty was another lesson learned during the conference. At one point, we had the Philippines yelling at Bolivia due to differences in drug policy as one has a president killing his citizens for drug affiliation and the other has coca farms. Philippines was also from Chico and constantly drinking Five Hour Energies. I feel like going into the conference I already had the skill of being able to work with others, but that skill truly got tested that weekend. I realized as groups formulated it often made it hard to work with others while delegates began to design different objectives revolving around their alliances. Confidence is key too! No one is really going to want to work with someone who can't represent their agreements.

2. What are you most proud of?

The main thing I was proud of doing in the conference was recruiting righting away. Being new to Model UN I had a limited understanding of strategy going into the conference, but one of the best things I did for myself was find experienced delegates and create partnerships. In particular, I remember looking for the German delegate to figure out her stance on the development of Africa and in doing so stumbled upon the delegate of Saudi Arabia. We shared similar views and I invited him to join my group for further discussions. Saudi Arabia was a powerful speaker and had an aggressive personality to get things done, a personality I was jealous of. Despite our countries' backgrounds, Saudi Arabia and I collaborated a good amount and we both held significant roles in our resolution paper. Saudi Arabia later went on to win the Security Council election for his region. There were other delegates as well that had significant roles that I met like Japan and Belgium (won outstanding delegate) for example. Already mentioned, I was proud for my significant role to my groups resolution paper. In the issue of sustainability and development in Africa, I had a lot to say in the economic development section. As an economics major that was my time to shine. I know that won't always be the case so I was fortunate as an inexperienced delegate and used the advantage to make the best of the conference. A little off topic, but I was also proud of the friendships I made during the conference. The relations I made during the diplomacy and even the casual talks I had with some of the delegates made it a hard leaving on Sunday. I found myself asking a good number of delegates if they would be participating in next semester's Model UN and acquiring their social networks. Through that I realized I had good diplomacy and made me feel better about the work I had done that weekend.

3. What could you have done better at the conference?

What I could have done better in the conference was speak more. I was one of the first few to get on the speaker's list on the first day, but didn't do so again until the next day. I was part of a large committee and genuinely didn't know how to get on the speakers list on the first day, but even once I found out how to work the speaker's list I feel like I could have voiced myself a lot better. One of my issues was the speaker's list was so long and we were moving through it so slowly that I was worried what I had to say would become irrelevant by the time I went up. I was afraid of not knowing what to say when my time came to speak, but that was one of challenges I over came by the end of the weekend. I wouldn't say impromptu speaking is now one of my strong points, but I'm definitely comfortable with formulating what to say in a small span of time. Another thing I could have done better at the conference was shown up with better research. I knew my country and its stance on the addressed issues, but that was it. I could have done a better job on understanding other countries' stances and policies. That was one thing I was impressed with by experienced delegates was their knowledge on not only the issues and their country, but also international relations. I learned that makes you a strong diplomat and certainly convinced me to come more prepared for my next Model UN. I also wish I knew how to write better resolution papers. The chair in our committee was super helpful in editing our papers and me collaborating with experienced delegates helped me understand the dynamic of resolution papers a lot more. I did get my feet wet with writing resolution papers going into the conference, but nothing could have taught me what I learned writing a real one and collaborating with others. Model UN was a new language in general for me and I had a lot of fun getting familiar with it.

4. What did this experience teach you about yourself?

It taught me I love Model UN! It's actually a big shame I found out about the class so late, but grateful I did. I realized how much I like diplomacy and though political science was an acquired taste for me and nothing that came natural, I truly appreciated participating in the Seattle conference. To be honest, Model UN turned out to be something different than what I expected going in, but, nonetheless, turned out to be the most fun academic experience I've ever had. Though I had a great time partaking in Model UN, I don't think I could do a career in diplomacy. It was a great learning experience and as a person who enjoys putting themselves out of their comfort zone, Model UN was a great class to make me a better public speaker. As a bartender, I have no problem speaking with anybody, but one thing I did know I lacked was having the confidence to speak to a group of people or in front of other eighty delegates for that matter. I'm grateful I have a desire to better myself and to stand out and though I might not always be successful, at least I put myself in that position. I also learned I'm good at adapting. Model UN exposed me to diplomacy, a proper way of speaking, and also a more efficient way of collaborating. I got to see how diplomacy worked first hand and though we weren't the real UN it certainly felt like it. The proper language and way of speaking was a great skill to acquire. It makes one come off very intelligent and confident. It also allows for stronger statements to be delivered. Prior to the conference, I had worked in small groups for projects, but Model UN put me in an arena with many others that had different objectives and no assigned guidelines to specifically work with others. It was all new to me and I had a great time learning and adopting all these new traits of Model UN.

Fall 2017 – Reflection Paper

Participation in Model United Nations has taught me a lot about international relations, negotiation, and the diplomatic process as a whole. First, as someone who comes from a debate background, I must admit that I was initially thrown off by the level of cooperation and compromise that is actually required for successful diplomacy. When I set foot in committee for the first time at the NWMUN Seattle conference, I soon realized that this was not a setting where one could just simply out-argue another, win the debate, and achieve diplomatic success. Rather, the benchmark for success was defined by how well delegates could present their positions through speeches, work with other delegates during unmoderated sessions, and adjust the specifics of their working resolutions to accommodate the concerns of other states. I had to adjust my approach accordingly. Second, discussion during unmoderated sessions were without a doubt where I gained the most knowledge and understanding of international relations. Within a couple sessions, I found myself partnered with representatives from Germany, France, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Slovenia, Hungary, and Estonia in an effort to develop a working resolution that would further combat the trade of illegal firearms. While there was some common ground as we were all EU member states, there was also differentiation with regard to our separate state stances on the illicit arms trade. As work progressed on our resolution during these unmoderated sessions, I had to not only ensure that Spain's interests were being accurately represented, but that I was also listening and incorporating the views of other states into our resolution as well. By extension, it is now my firm belief that this same premises are fundamental in the actual process of international relations and diplomacy in the UN today.

Despite some adjustments that I had to make in the beginning, I am proud of my performance on the whole. Particularly, I am proud of how active I was throughout the course of

the entire conference. When the speaker's list was first opened, I was one of the first to be added and ended up speaking around five or six times during the duration of the conference. Unlike many of the static speeches I heard that referenced the same points over and over again (ie. Chico), I made it a point to make my speeches dynamic and relevant to the issues facing the CTOC body as they unfolded. For example, as the conference progressed, it seemed that many working groups within the CTOC were developing resolutions with nearly identical ideas. Despite the dais' request for the merging of papers, there seemed to be resistance and stubbornness amongst many working groups. This mentality was stifling the diplomatic process within our body. In response to this increasingly problematic issue, I was the first delegate to make a speech urging working groups to set aside their pride and begin merging similar papers. I also highlighted the fact that we as representatives are under a moral obligation to develop policy that mitigates some of the damage done by the illicit firearms trade and that we should not lose sight of that ultimate objective. During the next unmoderated session, I was approached by representatives from Britain, France, and Chile who thanked me for my words and leadership in reminding the body of the big picture. Following this speech, I noticed that many delegates from particular working groups began to roam and discuss ideas with other groups. As the level of communication between groups increased, collaboration subsequently followed. While my working group continued to progress on our paper, I reached out to a nearby group and discussed specifics on the stockpiling and destruction of firearms. After realizing we had some common ground with one another on this issue, I suggested that we get our groups together and begin the process of merging. Upon going through one another's papers line by line and making appropriate changes, our paper was now jointly sponsored by Bahrain, Bolivia, Canada, Cuba,

Mexico, and Panama. While it would certainly be naïve of me to take sole credit for this outcome, I am still nonetheless proud of the role that I played in expediting diplomacy.

The primary thing I wish I had done better at the Seattle conference was to do more research beforehand. While I was familiar with Spain's position on the CTOC topics thanks to the country background research and position paper assignments, I wish I had spent a little more time going over the background guide provided by NWMUN. Specifically, I wish I had a slightly better understanding of the existing international framework already dealing with illicit firearms trade and illicit financial flows. Upon joining my working group, I realized that there were certain delegates (particularly Germany and Hungary) who had extensive knowledge on existing agreements such as the United Nation's "Programme of Action" and Arms Trade Treaty. As I quickly learned, knowing these agreements inside and out was fundamental for developing new resolutions that would address areas of oversight and problems that still remained in the current status quo. Although I was able to catch on to what was being said as the conference progressed, I feel like I missed a crucial opportunity at the beginning to voice my opinion on the current state of the international framework and guide the direction of our working paper moving forward. As a result, there were occasionally times where I felt like an observer on the sidelines as opposed to a contributing delegate. I also wish I was more familiar on the subject of cryptocurrency as this became a key component of our working paper that various delegates wanted to address. Because Model UN is ultimately supposed to be a learning experience, I can't say that my experienced was jeopardized by any means. Next semester however, I plan to do more research beforehand so that I will be in better position to lead the development of working resolutions.

My experience with Model UN this semester has mainly taught me more about my inner character. To be completely honest, one of the first things I discovered about myself is that diplomacy is not something that comes naturally to me. It felt like I was exercising an entirely new muscle that I had previously never known about. It was painful at first because, by default, I think I have a generally intense personality and a strong desire to get things done. While these character traits aren't necessarily totally incompatible with Model UN, I had to change my style by being more patient, consciously listening to others, being flexible, and maintaining an upbeat, cooperative attitude. I don't mean to paint the picture that I was a disrespectful, irritable, bulldozer of a delegate – because I was truly not. I made many friends along the way and had many successes. Being in committee however, there were times where I felt antsy and slightly frustrated at how slow the diplomatic process was. At first, these realizations made me doubt the fact that I would continue Model UN next semester. Yet, after giving it some serious thought, I realized that I should not let my initial uncomfortableness push me away from an opportunity to further develop these skills. I've realized over the years that I experience the most positive change and character growth in my life when I face circumstances in which I am pushed out of comfort zone into something completely unknown. I see Model UN as opportunity to facilitate that growth and eagerly await next semester.

Reflection Paper

My experience with Model United Nations (MUN) this semester I'd have to say was a good one. I definitely enjoyed this semester more than last. Not that last semester was bad or anything; but this semester was different. Not only did I participate intensely, but I also got the opportunity to connect with others in the class besides the friend(s) I already had which I felt I hadn't done last semester. Both factors helped to all around better my experience this semester. The conference was nice too; actually very chill compared to San Francisco and Portland last semester. But despite how chill it was I still gained from it. I got to see firsthand the importance of negotiation. Negotiation in the United Nations, I believe is everything. It is important that most, if not all Member States can come to a consensus on a resolution that will hopefully bring only good upon the globe. Being a member of the HRC (Human Rights Council), a council that deals with issues that cause conflict with people's rights, it was nice to see all the countries in my committee come together and agree on something. There were two separate resolutions that were written but they both got voted on by all states regardless. I doubt that's how things would actually play out in the real UN, but it would be nice if it did, especially with what's going on in the world regarding humans and their rights today. Also during committee, while working on a resolution paper, I came to learn that the HRC doesn't usually request money from the General Assembly(GA); but if it were to happen so, it would consist of like a hundred plus page document stating specifically what each and every dollar potentially borrowed would be spent on. That's a lot of work for some money, but I can see why that process goes as so.

Along with new learning outcomes came new accomplishments which made me not only a better delegate but a proud one as well. My rise in participation this semester gave me a whole

new feel of MUN. Putting myself out there during class mock sessions as well as during conference, especially conference, was hard, but I knew if I didn't I wouldn't have allowed myself the chance to fully experience MUN, the right way. Also, I'd just be playing myself and my potential and I didn't want to do that. If I didn't dive in the shark tank my experience couldn't have been the same. How would I have grown as a delegate or let alone as a public speaker? I know that there's definitely room for some improvement, but that's the case for everything in life. No matter how proficient or excellent you may be in something there's always going to be room for improvement somewhere. You can never be too good. But that's what made me end this semester proud, my willingness to leave my box of comfort and actually going through with it. Also, I forgot to mention, I'm really proud of my position paper this time around. No, it wasn't an A+ paper nor did it win an award like I had anticipated, but I love the work I put into it; including the moment when I felt unsure about something and I went to my professor instead of sitting in a pool of uncertainty.

Conference overall was a good experience and I did learn and gain some insight on things, but at the end I still wish I did more. Honestly, I'm probably always going to be wishing that as long as I'm a member of MUN, since I'm just that person. There's never enough. Yes, I spoke a few times and made myself noticed along with working on and editing a resolution paper for the first time, but I still feel like I could've been bigger. I feel like I should've talked to more countries outside of my group; negotiate more. I was India after all, India plays no games with their role in the HRC. I too played no games, but I just felt the need to be more prominent than I was, but that could be me being harsh. Also, I wish, I wish, once again, that I had of done more research there's just never enough research to be done! After this conference I think I have finally received a thorough understanding of all the research that needs to be done and beyond to

excel as a delegate. You practically need to literally know everything about the state which you're representing. I think that's impossible unless it's your home; but even then, there's still a lot that's destined to be left unknown. Last but not least, another thing I wish I could've done better at committee was speak! Public speaking for me is always hard. Just looking at all those daunting eyes glaring at me, especially when I slip a stutter, or something is so nerve wrenching. But I am proud nonetheless, that the intimidation and minor smirks I faced my first speech didn't stop me from others to come. Public speaking is a process, and I'm content with the fact that not every time I speak will I have the most supportive audience.

This whole entire experience overall has allowed me to, not so much learn, but to confirm things about myself that maybe I wasn't so confident about before. Through this experience I have confirmed that yes, I can do anything I set my mind to, so cliché but true. If you don't give yourself the mindset that you can get through as well as put in that work to get through, you won't. Being a future psychologist, I have a pretty broad understanding of how powerful the mind can be, and how it can affect someone's motivation and success. So, it's important to fill it with positivity even if you don't feel it should be filled with so, especially before a big moment like MWMUN. It makes a big difference. Also, as I look back on this journey I have reconfirmed that I am an indeed good writer, especially when I take my time and not rush through it. Very expressive, even when it shouldn't be, yes, but it's my writing and I can't help that, especially when it has to do with humans and rights. So, I'm glad India is just as passionate about human rights as I am. One more confirmation about myself based upon this experience is that I will literally try at something again until I feel satisfaction, even if at first, I don't see it fit to be. Some time ago, I nearly lost faith in all my potential and could not see myself as a delegate. it just wasn't in me. I'm a psychologist, not a political scientist. So, I thought, how could I be as

into it as my peers? But I didn't stand for that negative mentality. So, I got right back up and went at it again. One I wanted to improve, two, I really wanted to feel like a delegate, and be just as into it as my fellow classmates. At this point I don't know what my future will bring; for all I know I could be a real delegate one day and this experience would be a good start on that journey. And even if I'm not, still a good learning experience, a lot of people are unaware of what goes on in the UN and it would be nice for everyone to gain this experience if it was possible. After this time around I felt pretty rad, especially when I was a sponsor, I felt too cool to come back to school. But in all seriousness, next conference I hopefully attend, I shall be almost perfect, but for my second time around overall, I think I did a good job. I'm glad that I'm hopefully temporarily leaving this class feeling accomplished and encouraged. Hope to see you again MUN. Through this experience, I've officially found a place in my heart for political science.

Model UN Reflection Paper

A couple weeks ago, I participated in the Seattle Model United Nations conference for the first time. Beforehand, I had never experienced anything like this conference. I went in to the conference not fully knowing what to expect, taking things as they came. The conference itself was one of the biggest learning experiences of my academic career. Model UN has revealed a lot about who I am, how I work with others, and areas where I can strive for improvement. I thoroughly enjoyed getting a little taste of what real international negotiations look like and it gave me a larger perspective on how the conversations actually go.

After doing the research needed for my position paper and trying to do more research beforehand on other countries' stances, I still went in to the conference unprepared when seeing what other delegates knew and brought to the table. This has shown me that in order to fully be able to make decisions with regards to other countries, you need to have a solid foundation on the stances of other countries as well as your own. I saw this through the delegates taking leadership quicker than others because they had that extra confidence. Model UN has taught me that international negotiations are difficult and they take time. After 20 hours of being a room full of 80 or so other countries, we came up with three resolutions. However, many things weren't discussed and pushed aside due to the time constraint. I am impressed with our groups' abilities to negotiate on short amounts of time and put together a document, but I can only imagine with more time how much more detail could be added. I have learned in classes of how international treaties and agreements take a long time to develop, and this weekend perfectly showcased that truth. All countries come in with a plan of what they want to happen and how they want to go about that, but you quickly realize that your plans do not perfectly align with any other country. These differences force compromise to be the number one goal in an international organization. Compromising is a challenge in itself because there is no perfect middle ground to reach. Some decisions slightly favor

one group or another and you have to learn how to be okay with that or risk fighting and delaying the resolution for everyone.

As far as diplomacy goes, I unfortunately firsthand experienced what it was like to deal with someone who was undiplomatic in their ways of negotiation. This moment practically ruined the weekend for me as it depleted my confidence and made me want to shut down and not talk or negotiate with anyone else in the room in fear that they would react the same. One of the delegates in my working paper group called out my country claiming to know more than me about the topic on India's behalf and embarrassed me in front of the rest of the group. I did my best to remain diplomatic in the situation as I did not want to stoop to their level. It was a trying experience, but I think I held diplomacy for as long as we were in session. This experience taught me that through negotiations, you are not always going to be friendly with the other countries and there is tension throughout the room. It is up to you on whether you want to keep diplomacy and rise above for the benefit of the negotiation or choose to let personal feelings dictate the conversation. They aren't messing around when they say to leave your personal identity at the door, and take on the role of your country. This mentality kept me in check and forced me to focus on how the delegate of India would respond versus Maddie, the college student.

Leading up to the conference, I was dealing with an insane amount of personal issues that were inhibiting my academic life. Because of this, I am proud that I made it to Seattle and went through the whole weekend putting my focus on the conference and doing my best to not let my personal life interfere. When we first began the conference, I was immediately overcome with fear and anxiety as there were a lot of people in a small space and I didn't know anyone and was still new to the process of how Model UN works. Luckily, the dais was extremely helpful as well as other delegates in being patient with my confusion and allowing me to ask questions. Information overload can easily get the best of me, but I forced myself to not allow that to happen and to take things one step at a time. I had to constantly remind myself that I was here for a purpose and I had done the research and deserved to be in this room just as much as anyone else there. The number one thing I am most proud of and still in slight disbelief of is the fact that I won a position paper award for the General Assembly. When I first heard this from a delegate

from our school on the way into the airport, I was in shock. It is such an honor to have been given this award and it was the confidence boost I needed to choose to participate in Model UN again. I am also specifically proud of our Model UN team from Channel Islands and how we did as a whole. For having eleven brand new members, it is pretty impressive that we won four awards. It was so neat to get to hear of everyone else's victories and hardships throughout the weekend. I think we did a great job of being the support system that each other needed and also providing friendship outside the sessions to give us an outlet of fun amidst the stressful negotiations and resolution papers. I am proud of our overall dedication to the conference and that we all put on our 'learner's caps' throughout the weekend to get the most out of it, academically and personally.

What I am most disappointed in myself and aim for great improvement next conference is that I did not put my country in to speak before the whole committee. Every time I went to raise my placard, my anxiety would get the best of me and prevent me from speaking. This fear of not knowing what to say or having others reject my words stopped me from speaking. In the beginning of the conference, seeing everybody raise their placards just made me think what could I offer that these countries won't say.

Through time of reflection in these past couple weeks, I have realized that this thought was not fair to myself as I did have something to add as I was the only one who knew India and their stance on the topic. Knowing this gives me hope that next conference, I can say no to that anxiety and fear and have a confident voice in the room. Throughout suspensions and time to write resolutions, I was more comfortable speaking on India's behalf and worked well with the other member states to get my views on the table. I know there is room to improve there as I could have ventured out to other working groups to see where else India felt they should have a say. A lot of what I could have done better is trusting myself and the research I have done and turning that confidence into having a vocal presence in the committee room.

Majority of what I learned about myself is that I struggle to believe the work I put in is adequate enough for others. After receiving the position paper award, I instantly regretted the fact that I didn't speak up more in the committee. I had the knowledge to be there and I questioned myself, which led to

not using that knowledge to the best of my capabilities. Despite what I could have done better, I am super thankful I got the opportunity to be a part of something as great as Model UN. I would not have this understanding of how to properly negotiate or how knowledge is power if not for this weekend. The best part of this trip was having the opportunity to learn all of this alongside hundreds of college students, similar and different to me. I have already seen this conference impact my mentality in the classroom and the confidence I can have when I do the work required. This conference instigated a desire to learn how to have more confidence in my research and writing in all of my classes and time left in college. I can't wait to repeat this process with a new country and learn more about the international world and how countries interact with each other in real life and through this simulation. I know for a fact this will be a conference I never forget and will look back on with thanksgiving when I am older and find myself using the skills learned here in a job or internship or wherever else my future takes me.

Reflection Paper Being part of the Model United Nations 2017 was a great experience in my life because it provided me the opportunity to meet new and great people and I was able to listen to different political views or perspectives. Also, this was my first time attending to a conference and I learned so much from it because I was able to work with people as a group and being at the conference gave me the opportunity to apply many concepts I have learn from my political science classes, such as creating agreements that can benefit everyone or in this case every nation that was part of the committee of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Against Transnational Organized Crime (CTOC). In addition, other concept that I was able to apply during the conference was diplomacy because I learned that everyone deserves respect, have the same worth and every opinion or idea matters in every aspect of life. Also, as the definition says diplomacy is the ability to deal with people in a sensitive and effective way and from my own persona is something that I always have on mind because I think respect is key in order to form good relations in life. Moreover, some of the things I am proud of was the ability to work with other people without knowing each other in order to create a resolution that can benefit our nations and others. Also, I enjoyed working with the people from my group because we had a good communication because everyone worked in our resolution paper and it was fascinated seeing the ideas that each individual had that made our paper look strong, well organized and empathetic to the world around us. In addition, I had the opportunity to develop my communication skills because we had to get signatures to support our paper and I was able to go and talk to other people/ countries in order to get a signature from them and most of the people

agreed with our paper and we ended up with fifteen signatures and fifteen sponsors that were the people from my group because everyone added ideas to our paper.

Moreover, some of the things I could have done better at the conference was being able to talk more, interact with more people, get to know their ideas and positions about our topics, get to see more cooperation among every country in order to get best results for everyone but also I know that every country has its own policies, regulations and agreements about certain topics. Also, another thing that I could have done better was being able to get a chance on the speaker list and talk about some of my points about our topic/topics.

In conclusion, this conference taught me many things; some of them were that I can be able to talk to new people without being shy, share my ideas and points about our topics with my group and others, get into a polite discussion on how to solve an issue, learn that every comment we make it's not personal, accept different points of view from

my own in other words, be more tolerant. Also, being in this conference provided me the opportunity to make new friends, talk to them, know about their schools and programs and as I mentioned before it was my first time doing something like this and many people from the CTOC were new so I felt confident and prepared about the topics but most importantly I was there in order to learn, have fun and see how a conference looks like.

In addition, I am planning on taking this class again and we part of the Model United Nations 2018 because I already know what do I have to do and I learned how to write a resolution and also, be able to work as a team.

Dr. Grove

Reflection Paper

I just wanted to start off by saying that the NWMUN Seattle Conference was the most structured and professional conference I have been to thus far doing the Model UN. This being my third conference I believe I benefitted more from being in a smaller committee, and speaking more frequently through the speakers list, and during moderated debate. Although I thought my nerves would have an effect on my performance within my committee, I felt more comfortable in the RSC than I have in past conferences with three times the amount of states.

There were many important things that I learned in Seattle in this year's conference. One of them being using diplomatic means to address and communicate with other countries on the most professional terms. In other committees I have been in, states will sometimes bicker and call each other out unprofessionally and this often turns into a slap fight between the two states, which then takes the focus completely off the topic at hand. In the RSC such tactics were not used by any of the 25 states that were in the committee and it was a joyful to have such a structured debate between us. There are many atrocities that happen within any given state at any given time during the existence of that county, and it isn't affective, or useful for other states to use that as a hammer when communicating to that country. This dissolves the very social fabric diplomacy that the actual United Nations seeks to achieve.

International relations is what made me change my major from Sociology to Political Science a year ago, and this was the main reason I joined the Model UN to gain a better understanding of international relations in general. Regardless of how much research I do,

nothing can amount to how much knowledge I gain each time I go to one of these conferences. Not only do I get to promulgate my country and its policies, but I also get to hear what every other country in the room has to say about the issue at hand. I got to hear first hand what every country in the room wants to forward on an international level what their country seeks to accomplish. It's incredible to see delegates from each country come together to discuss, debate, and ultimately resolve issues that affect everyone in the world. This conference gave me a better understanding of how the states work with each other, and how they will proceed in completing their goals in the future.

The negotiation phase of every conference is usually the toughest, and always has its bumps in the road. In this conference there were two working papers being cultivated that would eventually have to be merged into one paper. When we ended up merging, the other group sort of spearheaded the single paper, while we added our critiques to theirs. When going through the paper as one group I often pointed out flaws, among them being that there were already organizations in place to deal with this issue, or that parts of their paper were on the development side of policy and not security. When we went up to the chair the corrections they made were the same as the ones some other sates and I had proposed earlier. Maybe I could have been more forthcoming or persistent with my ideas and critiques; possibly something I can change in the following conference. Overall, we created a working paper that benefitted every state in the room, as well as, every state around the world and passes by acclamation.

I was most proud of how many times I spoke at the conference. In past conferences I had only spoken once or twice because I was nervous so speak. I generally don't have a fear of public speaking, but the language one has to speak in, mixed with the message one has to send out with regards to the topic took some time to get used too. I always had the idea that everyone

in the room was smarter than I was because they got up to speak, but in reality they were just like me—a bit scared—and sometimes saying things that don't make much sense because they lost their train of thought in their brain. Even though I was in the RSC, which is compiled mostly of experienced delegates, I felt more relaxed because of the preparation I put into going over my speeches and information I gathered predating the conference.

I could have done a better job of getting noticed by other states faster and being a prominent figure within the committee. It's would have been easier to get my country's policies put forward more if I had taken steps to get to know the other states and where they stood right when we moved into a suspension of the meeting. Although I raised my placard to get put onto the speakers list to set the agenda, I wasn't one of the first who were chosen. In the conference it was the first delegates who were chosen to set the agenda that seemed to lead the committee in the following days. In my next conference I will have to work more on being persistent and leading in the committee.

What did this experience teach you about yourself?

The experience that I took away from the Seattle conference was one that I will always remember and cherish. Not only was it the knowledge gaining experience, but it was also the most exciting at the end of the day. This conference taught me that I could actually go out of my comfort zone and excel in an environment that is high stress. It made me believe that I could actually pursue a career in a field of international relations if that was the route that I wanted to take. There is so much work I put into the research, data collecting, and international treaties that I feel that I have an adequate foundation internationally. This experience taught me that I could do research for something, and then go and fight for the research I spent so much time on. It's something that I can take into the real world in any field I chose to go in because of the

foundation that was built out of this conference. As a person that grew up pretty poor and didn't get to travel much, the Model UN has brought me to different cities with different cultures.

Ultimately this experience has taught me that there is a world out there bigger than Ventura CA

and I am excited to see what comes next.



