

RELATED ACTIVITIES

ISLANDS

Proposal <u># 1009</u>

# Instructionally Related Activities Report Form

SPONSOR: ANDREA GROVE AND CHRIS SCHOLL DEPARTMENT: POLS ACTIVITY TITLE: MODEL UN DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 15-18 Nov 2018; 15-18 Feb and 12-16 April 2019

Please submit via email to the IRA Coordinator along with any supporting documentation at <u>david.daniels@csuci.edu</u> 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 This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website.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!



INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES

C H A N N E L I S L A N D S

### (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 PERSPECTIVES. 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?

BOTH FALL AND SPRING SEMESTERS INVOLVED REBUILDING AS STUDENTS HAVE GRADUATED OR DIDN'T HAVE ROOM IN THEIR SCHEDULES TO STAY IN THE COURSE. WE WORKED ON NEW WAYS OF TRAINING AND PREPARING WITH SO MANY NEW PEOPLE AND THIS WORKED WELL, SO WE WILL KEEP THAT UP.

(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.



INSTRUCTIONALLY RELATED ACTIVITIES C H A N N E L

ISLANDS

(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 \$5748.32 REGISTRATION FEES \$815 BAGGAGE CHECK \$50 ADVISOR PER DIEM \$200 AIRPORT TRANSPORT SEATTLE \$87 LAX TRANSPORT AND PARKING \$149 HOTEL \$4070.88 TOTAL: \$11,120.20

NORTHWEST MUN-PORTLAND AIRFARE \$5640.80 BAGGAGE CHECK \$60 REGISTRATION FEES \$815 ADVISOR PER DIEM \$200 AIRPORT TRANSPORT PORTLAND \$75 LAX TRANSPORT AND PARKING \$101.64 HOTEL \$3892.60 TOTAL \$10,785.04

MODEL UN OF THE FAR WEST REGISTRATION FEES: \$1575 HOTEL AND PARKING: \$5621 ADVISORS PER DIEM: \$500 ADVISORS MILEAGE: \$447.76 Total: \$8143.76

GRAND TOTAL: \$30,049 (WITH ALL FOOD -SEE BELOW-WOULD BE \$37,549) TOTAL AWARD AMOUNT: \$42,400

STUDENTS WERE ALSO ELIGIBLE TO RECEIVE UP TO \$40 PER DAY (WITH RECEIPTS) FOR FOOD AND UP TO \$200 FOR AIRFARE (NOT ALL STUDENTS DID THIS; DAVE DANIELS HAS THOSE TOTALS BUT IF ALL STUDENTS RECEIVED \$40 THE TOTAL WOULD BE \$7500. THAT LEAVES \$4851 FROM WHICH THE AIRFARE WOULD COME, MORE THAN ENOUGH FOR THE 8 OR SO WHO RECEIVED THE AIRFARE AMOUNT).

# IRA Report: Model UN 2018-19 Participant lists

## Fall 2018

	Year	Major
Kayla Bentley	Sophomore	COMM/health comm
Madison Cummings	Senior	Global Studies
Taylor Curtis	Sophomore	Political Science
Amanda Dudley	Senior	Global Studies
Michael Gesser	Senior	Global Studies
Melvin Kim	Junior	ESRM
Megan McCarthy	Junior	Spanish
Lisa Noriega	Senior	ESRM
Declan Renault	Sophomore	History
Atticus Reyes	Senior	History
JC Torchon	Junior	COMM/org comm
Barbara Trevino Cantu	Junior	Global Studies
Emily Van Gorden	Junior	Spanish and Global Studies
Zakkiyah Willis	Sophomore	Health Science
Sebastian d'Alton	Senior	Global Studies

# Spring 2019

	Year	Major
Kayla Bentley	Junior	COMM/health COMM
Jonathan Bregman	Senior	History
Beyzanur Cetin	Junior	Global Studies
Thomas DeGagne	Freshman	Computer Science
Michaek Gesser	Senior	Global Studies
Sage Matura	Sophomore	Political Science
Elizabeth Neumeyer	Junior	Global Studies/COMM
Cassidy O'Brien-Kerr	Sophomore	Health Science
Nona Palmer	Senior	Global Studies
McKenna Slatlem	Junior	Liberal Studies, Conc Std
Trevor Smith	Sophomore	Political Science
Jordan Sweaney	Junior	Global Studies
JC Torchon	Junior	COMM/org comm

Barbara Trevino Cantu	Senior	Global Studies
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Dr. Grove

Model UN

23 November, 2018

### **Reflection Paper**

Attending the North Western Model Union Conference a surreal and incredible experience. The United Nation simulation provided incredible insight into the inner workings of international relations and diplomacy and the monumental task of overcoming global issues that affect us all. This reflection paper will discuss what I learned at the conference, some of my proud moment and achievements, areas where I could have improved in, and what I learned about myself at this conference.

Before getting into the specifics about what I learned, I really want to iterate that when looking back on the entire experience of this class and the attending conference I can't help but express how rewarding and impactful it was. I believe it served as first real manifestation all my years of education. For the last five years, I have taken numerous classes ranging from foreign policy in the Middle East, comparative politics, politics in developing nations, but for the first time I was to apply what I've learned. I was given a real-world issue, a country, and committee and told learn everything about it because I'd be attending a United Nations simulation, where you'll task with working with other student delegates to solve it. It was just very refreshing to have been able to finally apply myself and the knowledge I possess. The most important thing that I learned about international relations, diplomacy, and negotiations is that they are incredibly challenging and dynamic.. For example, I was on the IOM, representing the country of the Netherlands on the topics of countering the trafficking of peoples. The committee was unanimous in that we all recognized that trafficking is a major international issue and must be addressed, but given each countries unique positions, finding consensus on a framework on how to address it would be the real challenge. It was so challenging that we didn't even t even get to the second topic. The opening speeches were incredibly vital to get an idea of where each countries' delegation stood on the issue and who would make compatible working partner. I was fortunate to form a working group with the delegation on of the UK, Austria, Canada, and twenty other delegations. We had a clear vision in our working paper to establish regional centers for the collection and sharing of data between members states by expanding existing a UN organization. I would soon learn through diplomatic exchanges with other delegates in order to gain support and signatories that wouldn't be so easy. I remember trying to negotiate with a working group led Afghanistan, and they repeatedly said our position would violate their sovereignty. I soon realized how important compromise is when comes to diplomacy. In order to merge with their working group and ensure their support for our working paper/ resolution, we had to make substantial changes ensuring that participating in regional information exchanges and database would be completely voluntary and remain completely confidential. Negotiations and debates went back and forth like this for three days and it was incredibly challenging and at some points frustrating to try to find common ground.

I'm most proud by the fact I tried my best to come prepared to accurately represent the Netherlands in the simulation, and stay true to its values and global objectives. In the area of countering trafficking the Netherlands has always sought act multilaterally and has excelled in the area of improving information sharing and data collection, when comes to trafficking. I was very happy and proud be able to work with like-minded delegates where I could apply insight and knowledge in this area and my contributions manifested in both preambulatory and operative clauses. Although we had substantive changes for our working paper/ resolution to pass and

looking back I'm glad, because at the end the day it's important that all countries should have their voices and concerns heard and respected. More importantly, compromise and consensus forms the basis of diplomatic relations.

Looking back there are a number of areas where I could have done. First, I wish I would've taken the initiative in the beginning opening speeches. I noticed how critical it was, because it established your position and made it easy to form working relations with like-minded delegates and set the overall agenda and direction. This was a new experience and at the beginning, it was a bit intimidating. I have a fear of speaking in front of large crowds and I was a little intimidated by how aggressive some of the delegates were in pushing their agendas. It became noticeable that many of the leading delegates were very experienced and had participated in many Model UN conferences in the US, and abroad. They tended to direct the discourse and direction of some of the working groups. I wish I would've stood my ground on some instances rather than relent, but I was able to find my niche amongst a few welcoming delegates, who more than helpful in explaining how to approach the working on papers and including me into the process of group discussions. I wish we would have more time in class to learn the rules and norms, but given the circumstance that transpired in the week and a half prior to the conference, it's understandable. I felt that the hour-long rule seminar wasn't adequate and I struggled to familiarize myself with the procedures. I think that had been more familiar with the framework I would have performed much better.

Attending this conferences was a very rewarding and a beneficial experience. I had a great time and really enjoyed meeting new people, but overall, I couldn't see myself pursuing a career in international politics and diplomacy. I know my strengths and interests, and I'm not the type of person that works in well large groups in this line of work. I work really well in small groups and on my own to overcome problems. I've always known that I couldn't pursue a career where I had to wear a suit and tie, more or less a desk job. From this experience I know I'd work much on the ground with an NGO or a working group dealing humanitarian work. I'd be more fulfilled choosing a career path in that capacity, where I know my personal strengths and interest would be better applied. Despite, I've always believed its important to try new things and to try get out one's comfort zone. I think this conference served to that end and I'm very glad I that opportunity to try it.

In conclusion, I was very grateful and honored to be able to participate in the Northwestern Model United Nations conference. Overall I really enjoyed attending and felt that it was a great way to apply the sum total of my education in the area of politics and international relations. This reflection paper sought to explore what I learned at the conference, proud moments and achievements, areas where I could have improved in, and what I learned about myself at this conference.

#### **Reflection Paper**

This was my second time participating in the Model United Nations at CSUCI. Last semester was my introductory experience, being one of the three "newbies" my goal was simply to learn as much as I possibly could about International Relations and the United Nations structure. This semester, however, was quite different. Returning to the class, this time as one of four other returning students with Model UN experience, I felt my purpose shift to a more leadership role within the team.

Remembering how helpful other teammates like Tyler, Allie, and Sam were to me last semester inspired me to try to be that resource for others this semester. The Model UN can be extremely intimidating and daunting for first time students. You are looking at very complex and complicated problems that plague the global community, and feel pressure to find solutions that will solve these issues. This pressure can be really heavy for first time students, as it was for me last semester. It is easy for students to forget that the real international community has yet to solve these issues either. Thus, I felt it important in my role this semester to remind my fellow students of this reality, and for them to give themselves grace and flexibility while looking at these issues. By reminding them that the goals of your first time in the course should be to learn as much as you can about international relations, I felt some of that pressure to save the world relieved from my fellow teammates.

Being in a leadership role within a team you yourself are quite new to can also be really intimidating. This was only my second semester in class, I was far from anything close to an experienced delegate, however fellow classmates looked to me at times for help. This alone made me more confident in what I was preparing to do this semester. By helping fellow students, and encouraging them to feel confident in their work I learned how to feel confident in my work, or at least make it appear so. The Seattle conference can be truly intimidating for CI students; there are many students from other "prestigious" institutions, and coming from a small local CSU can really demonstrate that divide. Thus, I felt that it was important for us returning delegates to show the newer delegates that we definitely belong in this conference.

The conference in Seattle almost didn't happen for me. With all of the chaos that occured on campus, and my role especially as Student Government President, I was extremely occupied the weeks leading up to the conference. Thus, I was afraid that I would not be as prepared as other delegates who were most definitely preparing every single day leading up to the conference. Especially considering that I was in the Security Council, an extremely demanding committee, I almost did not attend the conference because I did not want to make a fool of myself. However, I decided to go because I needed to, and I am so glad that I did.

This was my first time being in the Security Council, and it was definitely an experience. I asked to be placed in the Security Council at the beginning of the semester because I wanted a challenge. Coming from the General Assembly last semester, I wanted the opportunity to work in a smaller, more advanced group where we could discuss actual implementation of international policies. However, the more advanced the group was, the more advanced the other delegates would be as well. This was definitely the case as the other delegates in the council were extremely impressive. On the first day of the council, I showed up the room about ten minutes before the start of the committee, and they were already discussing policy and possible solutions to the various crises. This intimidated me greatly for I felt that from the beginning I was already behind. Also, contrary to my initial belief, the council was composed of many students from the same school. The University of Arizona, the University of Texas at Dallas, and CSU Chico all

had two students each in the council. Thus, I felt like an outsider from the beginning because many of the delegates knew each other, and appeared to have had conversations together before the conference. Nonetheless, I tried my hardest to break into the pack.

Like I stated above, the council was full of a lot of experienced and knowledgeable delegates. I knew I was in a different setting when delegates were not only quoting specific UN Security Resolutions or paragraphs from the UN Charter, but when other delegates were pulling out pocket sized UN Charters to double check those statements. Simply put, I was not in Kansas anymore. This group also brought forth a little bit of difficulty for me. It was one of the first times where I truly felt that I could not command the room. During unmoderated caucuses, I would speak, and rather than people listen attentively, they would continue conversing with other delegates. This was initially a blow to my self-confidence as I began to question if they weren't listening because I was saying something dumb, but I soon realized why it was occurring. In environments like these, people aren't looking for a "leader". The council was full of more than qualified delegates, who had more than enough experience. They did not need someone to "lead" them or tell them what to do. After seeing how the council operated, I came to understand this and actually learn that there shouldn't be a "leader", there should only be a communicator.

Communication is the tool which I believe helped me be successful in the Security Council. Like I said previously, the council was occupied with extremely intelligent delegates who did not want, or need, someone to tell them what to do. What they did need, however, was someone to help facilitate conversations regarding opposing ideas. This brings me to probably the most important thing I learned in Seattle; sometimes the most intelligent people are not always the best communicators. The council became difficult at times because, due to poor communication, people were misunderstanding one another. This is where I simply found my niche, not as a leader but as a communicator. To be able to go to another delegate, present a position, listen and understand their's, and bring back that entire interaction to the group can be overlooked. When I assumed this role, and took it seriously, I felt that the group started to work more efficiently and productively. I truly believe that is was because of this role, and nothing else, that I was awarded Outstanding Delegate of the Security Council.

As I close on my last reflection paper for my last Model United Nations class I can not help but think of all of the amazing things that I learned and experienced while taking this course. Last semester I talked about how the Model Union helped me understand the presence of my Western experience when looking at global issues. This semester I learned a lot more about myself and group problem solving. This chaotic semester taught me never to doubt myself even in the face of extremely intimidating odds. The conference taught me how important communication is in group settings, and how you do not have to be a "leader" to bring change. Lastly, I will admit how proud I was when I received Outstanding Delegate at the conference. Not because it elevated my position in the conference, but because I felt that it showed every person at the conference that Channel Islands, a small diverse CSU, belongs there. That simple representation is so important in those settings, and I am forever grateful to have contributed even the slightest amount to it.

### <u>**Reflection Paper Model UN**</u>

First and foremost, I learned how to cooperate with difficult individuals/groups. To elaborate I learned how to do this while not sacrificing my goals. Most certainly there was individuals who ideals went against mine (Colombia) and just like the real world a fight solves nothing. Diplomatic skills were greatly improved over the weekend. I made friends and strengthened already existing ones. The experience was worthwhile, and I am sure future ones will be as well.

I sharpened my skills in being someone who tries to be inclusive of multiple viewpoints. Throughout the conference I found myself constantly being the one who called in other member states who were being elusive and tried to coax them into cooperation. I found that this greatly improved the quality of the works and the added viewpoints sparked thoughts for my country to elaborate on. Also, I felt like Colombia was able to leverage its position more than others with disabled persons topic because it has had decades of war that influenced Colombia's preponderance of problems on the matter. It made me as a state feel power on the issue which was unique. I learned how to utilize this power to persuade others to incorporate my designs as well as others who were similar.

Complexity of international relations was enlightening for me. It is one thing to write about how countries will react on paper. The conference was in my opinion very accurate in this representation. I feel that personally I represented Colombia's issues to the letter and many other delegates did the same. One delegate, If I remember correctly, from Qatar, represented the countries stance regarding lesbian, gays, and bi-sexual. The countries view differed from hers so drastically that she was brought to tears. This was like the other delegates as I felt my delegation was very professional compared to what I heard about other. I look forward to comparing to my future conferences.

Sticking to my principles as they pertained to my country was also a major feat for me because like my peers there were some things Colombia represented that I would not personally agree with. Seeing others and the way they handle the situations gave me knowledge and insight which I hope to use next semester. There were plenty of times I would have liked to let a jerk know exactly how I felt but I was Colombia first and not Michael. Setting aside yourself is harder than it seems.

Diplomatic dialogue was much more difficult. An instance with Peru was unnerving as she started to butcher my clause without my input. Trying to maintain composure and assess the situation and try and incorporate everyone's viewpoint again took a lot of my will and it was a learning curve. Incorporating everyone's opinion proved difficult due to just the sheer amount of people yet alone trying to make everything cohesive and appease everyone. It makes me respect diplomats that much more because there is most certainly an art.

I am most proud of my resolution on my state's issues. It was a process keeping my states opinions relevant in the papers. Furthermore, the expression of those my states views in front of the delegation was interesting to say the least. I was not nervous or anything to that effect rather as I heard other delegates and their views mine changed and I am proud of how I was able to maintain composure and restructure what I had to say and deliver it with confidence.

After I got my state's opinions solidified in a working paper, I became a bit comatose. I certainly tried to engage myself with others, but I could have put more effort in it. At the very least I could have taken the burden off others and offered a neutral viewpoint or helped type

something out for them. I did make an effort and became a signatory on another paper, but I know I could have done more. Next time I will be cognizant and budget my time more wisely.

This experience taught me that I am more competent than I think. Before I was skeptical if I could compete on the same level as others. The saying "fake it to you make it" is useful but I didn't want to fake it. Other delegates couldn't tell that it was my first conference and made would come to me for advice thinking I knew more than they did. The conference also taught me the meaning of establishing friendships, which I think is an unwritten goal of the UN; after all it is all about friendly and cooperation can be used interchangeably in many circumstances. Overall, I really enjoyed myself and am looking forward to next semester where I can continue to build on what I learned.

### Reflection Paper - Seattle 2018

My fourth and final Model United Nations conference brought forth many facets of both personal, professional and diplomatic growth for me. Being in the Reformed Security Council was a transformative experience, not only because of the skills I acquired through being in a high-level council but because of the personal realizations I made throughout.

As far as I can understand, the Model UN was established to teach young, aspirational change-seekers how to become diplomatic leaders in order to shape a brighter tomorrow. However, I noticed very quickly that 90% of the delegates in my council were fighting for dominance rather than for justice. The conference was about winning for the majority of them, which made me rather sad and disappointed, being an individual that is *genuinely* passionate about the mission of the United Nations. Was this an accurate depiction of the true operations of the United Nations? Do *real* delegates prioritize dominance over reaching meaningful solutions to heartbreaking global issues? I sure hope not. I would be crushed if so.

Frankly, this conference taught me exactly what *not* to do if I ever end up assuming a decision-making role or if I ever become a representative of a high-level body. I noticed within the first hour of the first day the aggressive, dominance-seeking nature of delegates and their determination to get an award rather than to reach a sustainable agreement on the issues before us. As a result of this enlightening experience, which came to me about four conferences too late, I feel that I am a better diplomat now by a thousandfold. I know in my heart the true purpose of the United Nations. This was not an accurate representation of that purpose.

In contrast, I am immensely proud of the fact that I led a comparatively large group of delegates in creating one of the two main resolutions that were produced in the Reformed Security Council over the weekend. Resolution-writing is my favorite part about the Model UN because I am able to utilize one of my strongest skills - indeed, it is one of the only things that makes me feel that I am somewhat capable as a delegate.

I am also proud of the fact that I could detect the aggressive and tense nature of the body and subsequently decide not to partake in it. I was there to learn and to grow as a leader in our broken and cruel society so that I can be the change that I long for every day of my life. I wish so badly that my fellow delegates sought after the same goal. I'm proud that, once I came to the realization that this council did not uphold the justice-seeking vision of the United Nations, I chose to rally against it, quietly and effectively. I was kind. I listened to people's ideas and validated them. I paid attention. I was respectful of the hard work of my fellow delegates. Unfortunately, this was not the trend throughout the rest of the room.

For more than half of the time during our unmoderated sessions, delegates were gathered around me asking what they could help with while I was making edits. There was no factor of dominance involved - however, I did come to realize that there is an innate leadership quality about me that prevails when I let myself be who I am and decide not to let undermining comments or actions determine my worth as a delegate or human being. With every negotiation I made about a clause, with every discussion I had about common goals, and with every encouraging word I said in that room, I was quieting the Katie and Maddie voices, and I was chipping away at the hateful atmosphere of the Reformed Security Council.

Recalling the weekend of the conference, the main thing I should have improved upon, both prior to and during the conference, was my level of confidence. I was so intimidated by the other delegates that I began to convince myself that I was wildly inferior to them. They could, without reservation, get up and speak without any notes at all. Some of them spoke well over 30 times, and because I am the sort that needs to write out their thoughts in order to organize them, I felt that I was an embarrassment. I mistook our differences in speaking methodologies as differences in speaking strength, and I can now see that I was wrong.

I found myself constantly comparing my level of activity and public speaking skills to the other delegates', wondering what I could possibly do to make myself seem more legitimate to them. I kept thinking to myself, "Katie was right last semester when she said I didn't have the skills needed to succeed in the Security Council." I've now come to realize that her statement was in stark opposition to what a truly respectful delegate would say, and I couldn't be more thankful that my takeaway from these conferences was a sense of compassion for all people and viewpoints rather than a sense of dominion over them.

My final Model United Nations conference taught me that it's okay not to be good at absolutely everything. I am not a superhuman, and I cannot be excellent at everything in this life. I hold high standards for myself in absolutely every area and expect myself to exceed my own expectations every time I take on a task.

I *am* an environmentalist. I *am* an activist. I *am* a writer. I *am* a peaceseeker. I am, however, *not* an expert in international relations. I went into this conference, for the fourth time, expecting to be outstanding, for the fourth time. What an intense pressure it has been to expect above-average results while being a fish out of water.

My biggest takeaway from my final conference was that I cannot be great at everything, and that is okay. I'm considering this experience to be the first step in my journey to be kinder to myself. I'm learning, also, to be proud that I have been one of very few environmental scientists to go to a conference for political scientists and international relations specialists, not once, but *four times*.

I absolutely loved and deeply cherished my time in the Model United Nations course at CSU Channel Islands. I will never take for granted the skills I have honed in on both directly and indirectly through these conferences, which includes so many more that weren't aforementioned. I will always be grateful for the realizations I have made about my strengths, my weaknesses, and my hunger for a peaceful and just world. I will forever dedicate every ounce of my being to challenging the hateful and dominance-seeking nature of our society, even if I cannot change the hateful and dominance-seeking nature of the Model United Nations. Dr. Scholl/ Dr. Grove POLS 427 Fall 2018

#### **Reflection Paper**

Participating in the Model UN conference this year taught me a lot about what goes on behind the scenes in the United Nations, how conflicts and issues are resolved, and how states may interact with each other in order to solve those conflicts and issues that confront the world. One of the first things I noticed at the start of the conference and my committees session was how passionate states are about the topics presented. Despite the relationships that some states have with each other, they were able to put those differences aside for the time needed to address the issues that were being discussed. Time and time again delegates spoke of the importance of coming together to resolve the atrocities that are confronting the world, in the case of my committee, trafficking in persons, and migration policy. International relations are not all you see in the news, there is so much more that goes on behind international relationships than we realize and while countries may hate each other, it does not mean that they do not work together to solve issues that threaten the entire world. Another thing that I learned was how long the negotiation process can be. During my committee session we were only able to cover one of our topics because of how long the negotiation process was and because of how passionate delegates were on the topic of trafficking in persons. Working with so many different countries and delegates that are all so different, it was no surprise to me that the process took as long as it did. It did surprise me to see how well everyone worked together to come to a solution, but also how everyone was able to represent their country so well when debating. One thing I did learn was how difficult it could be at times and then imagining how hard it must be as a delegate in the United Nations working to solve those conflicts in real time. While everyone mostly worked really well together, there were very tense situations where delegates called out states and

representatives at very inappropriate times causing tensions during the negotiation process and while writing the resolutions. It was very interesting to see how the whole process played out and which delegates were more vocal about their countries beliefs and needs as well as which delegates worked hard at reminding everyone what the real issue was and that all delegates and countries were working towards the same goal.

Going in to the conference I was very nervous about representing my country as well as my school and making sure that I did my country justice and make myself proud in the process. At the first committee session I was very overwhelmed at the process and everything that the next three days would entail. Despite my nerves and fears I decided to put myself on the speakers list forcing myself to be involved and so that other countries would recognize that my country has a voice that would be heard. Getting up and speaking at first was very daunting, but listening to other people speak made it a lot easier when it came down to me. I was very proud of myself for being able to get up and articulate myself well and get across how my country feels about trafficking in persons. When broke out into the first unmoderated session I chose to stay relatively quiet, looking for a group writing a resolution that would best fit my country's needs. It took a little while, but I finally found a group that was writing a resolution that Colombia could support and get behind. During the writing process I am proud of the fact that despite how nervous I was and despite it being my first time I made sure to be as involved as I could when working on the working paper. From the very beginning I worked with other countries in writing one of the preambles as well as the operative clause that would go along with it. At times it was difficult to stay involved with the writing and editing process because of how many people were working on one paper, but I remained determined to at least be involved by working with smaller groups that branched out to edit the paper and provide other delegates with feedback on what is

good and what might need to be changed. By the end of the conference our working paper went through multiple edits, changes, and one merge to become a draft resolution and finally a resolution once it was voted on. Looking at the resolution and being able to point to sections and say that I wrote that and worked on the resolution as a whole is something that I am still very proud of. Overall I am proud that I was able to overcome my nerves and fears and successfully work with other delegates to present a well written and well put together resolution to solve issues related to trafficking in persons.

There are a few aspects of my performance at the conference that I believe I could have done better and will work to improve upon at the next conference I attend. To start off, as the conference went on and the sessions got longer, there were times that I found myself slacking off and talking with other delegates on matters that were unrelated to the conference. There were times that I got a bit distracted from what I should have been doing. I wish I would have worked harder at maintaining my focus on what we were supposed to be working on at the time. Aside from being distracted at times, during the time that I was working on the paper and working with other delegates, I wish I would have spoken up more rather than letting people talk over me and push my voice back. Because there were so many delegates working to be the best and do the best there were a lot of times were I was pushed to the back and disregarded. I should have worked harder at not letting other delegates push me around as they did. One thing that I also need to work to improve on for the next conference is not losing momentum by the end. Being so involved in the beginning and then slowly burning out by the end, I wish I would have remained as engaged as I was in the beginning at the end. I also need to work on not letting other people discourage me as some did. Being new to the conference and the process I felt discouraged by a few delegates who had already participated in past conferences either in college or high school.

At the next conference, I hope to work harder at maintaining my focus and staying engaged throughout the whole conference, as well as not letting other delegates talk over me and make me feel as if my countries needs do not matter as much as theirs.

This entire experience taught me a lot about myself and taught me a lot about things that I can improve on. For starters it taught me that I am more capable than I think I am. I spent a lot of time before the conference psyching myself out and telling myself that I wasn't going to do well because it was my first time and I had never done anything like it before. During and after the conference I realized that I am more capable of adapting to new situations and new experiences than I thought I was. Rather than spending all of that time before the conference psyching myself out I should have been building my confidence up so that I could have done my best at the conference. Another thing this experience taught me about myself is that I am very capable of working together with a group of people that I don't know and still being able to be productive and get the job done at the end. I think that this is a very important quality to have when going into the real world and am happy to have learned that this is something I am very capable of. I also learned that I am very hands on when it comes to learning about the process of Model UN. While I still learned a lot in class and through my own research, I felt like I wouldn't know what I need to do until I was actually there and going through the entire process. Learning hands on and in the moment was much better for me that doing research beforehand. I also learned that I can do much more than I did. Because I was doing Model UN for the first time I didn't think I would be able to get as involved as other delegates who had previous experience. I did not want to look stupid in front of anyone else because of my inexperience. I learned however that I would have had no problem being more involved and leading more discussion on the topic we were

working on. Overall, I learned a lot about myself through this experience and hope to learn even more next time and work on improving myself so that I can do better next time. Dr. Scholl, Dr. Grove 12/1/2018

#### Seattle Model United Nations 2018

There were 3 major things that I took away from the UN conference; those were, how political interactions occur globally, how difficult it is to find resolution with other countries, and finally how important it is to have your voice heard. As a representative of the country Rwanda in the General Assembly, I learned how to come up with compromises and resolutions to satisfy all the countries.

There were different steps in the process to have this happen, then send the resolutions to other entities; in the conferences case, the security council. The steps in researching your country and trying to have your countries go onto the final resolution is a very difficult process. Other countries strive to have the same goal as you, which is to put their counties desire into one resolution. We have all these people in one room representing all these different countries trying to fight to put all their ideas on one paper. This can easily get chaotic, messy and cause a lot of tension in the room. One important thing you must have, is a voice to represent your country. It is very important to get your point across and tell what your country feels because if you don't you will be a floating country with no power, stance, or feeling within the resolutions. For international relations in general, I learned how long it takes for countries to compromise and come up with a resolution. We chose the first topic first thing on Friday of the conference and we finished the first topic 30 minutes before the entire conference was over. That means we spent twenty- one hours talking about the rights of indigenous peoples. (our first topic). Towards the last five hours of the conference, I was supper drained. I felt like I had been talking and arguing with other delegates for too long. Everyone there was respectful and nice, however the delegates all wanted to give their two sense about their country. Working together with other delegates is

the point of the Model United Nations. During most of the conference I worked with all countries from Africa. Since I was Rwanda, I mainly worked with Nigeria and I worked with Morocco. The delegates, sought the same goal in achieving better education for the indigenous people in our countries. The entire conference Nigeria, Morocco, and Rwanda all worked to work on Africa's education programs for Indigenous people. I learned how to time manage and how important suspensions were to our group. Prioritizing to come up with what your country desires was important as well. I learned quickly that that was important when all the suspension times were limited. Overall, I feel I learned strategy, cooperation, and time management the most during the conference. It was interesting because if you lacked in one of those traits, it was very noticeable to other delegates.

I am most proud of my ability to speak up in front of the other delegates. I spoke on the second day and in the second session. I did not think I would have the courage to speak because it was very intimidating to walk up there in front of everyone, especially since this was my first conference. Everyone during the speeches were looking at you and listening intently to what you had to say. I am very happy I got up the courage to speak because I feel it taught me a lot. It was interesting also, because it is strategy when the right time to speak is. The best time to speak is during the beginning of the conference in my opinion. If you talk about your stance in the beginning of the conference people hear you and tend to approach you. Then you can give more ideas to people and they can start working with you to improve your resolutions. If you wait too long you are always welcome to speak but you must talk to more people about what you are going to say to represent your working papers, so it can get more difficult and overwhelming. The only good thing to speaking later is since everyone has their working paper started and have

an idea on what direction they want to go for their working papers, there is probably going to be a lot less people listening or paying attention to what you have to say.

One thing that I could have done better at the conference was I could have prepared more for the ending sessions. The last 4 sessions of the conference I was getting super dried out of the sessions. We were starting to wrap up our resolutions and the main delegates were starting to work together into collaborating the working papers. The rest of the delegates including myself were starting to get weary because there was not much we could be doing but waiting. We would check in every now and then to make sure that our parts of the paper were still included in the working papers but other than that there was not much to be doing. Something I could have done to improve that time is to talk more to the main delegates and try to add my opinions on how I think the paper should look like. I feel like I held back some opinions that could have been beneficial to the group, I just didn't feel like the main delegate needed me, so I let myself feel intimidated. Pushing myself to talk more would be pushing myself out of my comfort zone which would have been beneficial to me as well. Going up to speak more times during the sessions would have improved my speaking abilities especially since I believe I figured out when the best times to speak were. I feel like taking advantage of those opportunities would have been something I could have done better at the conference.

This experience taught me many things. It taught me how to be confident in what I know, it taught me to listen, and it taught me to be directive. I feel it taught me to be confident in my country and what I knew, because many people there knew about my country Rwanda, but they did not know the details and the amount of research that I have done. When delegates started to ask me about my country, I was nervous at first because I did not want to sound stupid. Then when I realized I knew the answers with confidence to their questions and what my countries

rights on Indigenous rights were, I realized there was nothing to be afraid of. It was a very relieving feeling to realize I knew my country. I learned that I was a good listener. When it comes to being a respectful and decent politician you must learn to hear other people's complaints and hear their ideas. Because you never know their idea could help improve your idea. Finally, I learned that I have a voice and that I can be very directive. It is good trait to listen in politics especially in the United Nations, but I learned to find a balance in listening and being stern and directive with my voice. Overall, I enjoyed my experience in the Model United Nations and I am looking forward to participating in it again.

Professor Chris Scholl Professor Andrea Grove POLS 427

2 December 2018

### **Reflection Paper**

Never in a million years did I think I would be a member of a model un team, but look at me now! As an individual that barely knows the surface of politics, I was unsure if I would excel in this course, but I wanted to challenge myself so I decided to apply. As I reflect on this semester, I have gained so much more knowledge, memories, and friendships that will last a lifetime. After experiencing the model un conference, my perspective on politics has shifted significantly. I have gained an understanding for the importance of the interconnectedness of law, economics, and politics on a global scale. I have learned that in order for the world to progress towards change, states must put effort into collaborating with fellow states to share ideas and views on global issues.

During the conference, I remember my committee being praised on our great diplomacy. Majority of the delegates in my committee were very respectful when hearing others share views that their state didn't agree with. However, some delegates would verbally attack others while giving a speech or during debates and the Dias would make an announcement reminding everyone to steer away from doing so. Moreover, I learned that diplomacy is especially important when collaborating with other states to write draft resolutions. Most of the individuals in my working group wanted to add their state's specific concerns in the working papers, but it was extremely difficult to do because certain issues didn't apply to certain states. In my working group there was about 15-20 of us, we had to negotiate on what issues we wanted to focus on, such as the violation of human rights/land rights, education for the indigenous groups, and access to clean water. As a group, we sat down and had each delegate type into a shared google document what issues their state wanted to address in the working paper. After we all did that, we chose to address the problems that were the most prevalent and discussed possible solutions. We also took time to look over the format of the working paper together and learned what a real draft resolution is supposed to look like.

By attending this conference, I was able to achieve so much in such a short span of time. I am proud of myself for keeping an open mind and putting forth effort throughout the semester in order to gain the most out of this course. Before the semester started, I dedicated time to research the procedure and responsibilities of the UN, so I could better understand the purpose of the United Nations. I am also proud of myself for trying my best to learn as much as I could about my state. The country paper as well as research done on my own time really helped me grasp an understanding of my state's view on various topics. With that being said, it felt great sharing my knowledge on my state's stance with other delegates and answering questions they had about my country's actions on certain issues (before the GA) at the conference. A huge personal accomplishment was contributing to the working paper. I noticed many delegates would just sign a working paper and leave the rest of the work for other delegates in the group. However, I wanted to go beyond that. Not only did I co-sponsor a working paper, but I also wrote a few clauses for it. My fellow delegate, Guatemala, and I came up with clauses regarding the violence indigenous groups face for our group's working paper. Not only did our working paper get approved, but a few other groups decided to adopt our clauses into their working

papers. That was definitely a special moment for me. Overall, I am proud of myself for believing in myself and trying my best to be the best delegate I could be.

There are a few things I feel I could have done better at the conference. I could have spoken during moderated caucus and debates. Public speaking is something I am not the best at and I was already nervous so I didn't jump at the opportunity. After the first session, my nerves kind of went away and I felt a bit more comfortable with the delegates in my committee. However, whenever I felt like speaking, part of me was scared that I would say the wrong thing so I decided to do all my talking during unmoderated caucus. I felt more comfortable having casual conversation, during unmoderated caucus, with a few delegates at a time versus speaking formally in front of the entire room. Another thing I could have done better was motion for a "point of information" when I was confused during sessions. Lastly, I could have taken more charge in my working group or created my own working group instead of joining an established one. Before joining my working group, myself and fellow delegates Guatemala, Brazil, Paraguay, and Uruguay (the Latin America crew) wanted to create our own working paper that focused on specific problems indigenous groups in Latin America face. Unfortunately, we were running low on time and did not have enough signatories/co-sponsors in mind, so we decided to join another group. When we were in the larger working group, we (the Latin America crew) became a bit frustrated because some of the other delegates weren't interested in our states' particular issues, which resulted in myself and delegate Guatemala creating our own clauses for the working paper.

Before starting this course, I obviously expected to gain knowledge on the UN and politics, but I didn't expect to learn more about myself. This experience has taught me to not be embarrassed to ask for help or guidance when I need it, doubt myself less, and put less pressure

on myself. Early in the semester, I felt a bit lost because I felt I didn't know as much as my peers. I remember telling Professor Scholl I was nervous because I didn't know much about politics, but he constantly reassured me that this is a learning experience for everyone and that I would be okay. I am so glad that I decided to take this course and I can't wait to apply again for next fall! Finally, I would like to thank you both for giving me the opportunity to be a part of something great. Both of you are such amazing, caring professors and I appreciate all your guidance, wisdom, and hard work!

# Model U.N. Reflection Paper 11/26/18

This Model United Nations conference was my first time in Seattle so I thoroughly enjoyed the travelling experience, even though it was very cold and there was little time to see the city. Since the conference was a learning conference, it was nice because it alleviated a little bit of pressure and allowed me to ease back into the routine at a good pace.

One of the first things I noticed while participating in the conference was how little I still knew about what was going on in other countries. While preparing for the conference I did a lot of research on Rwanda, their allies and enemies, and surrounding countries. I did not account for how many other delegates knew about my own country and its history. This taught me how much more thorough my research needs to be when expecting to collaborate with others. This became more prevalent when I started collaborating with countries I never planned or expected to work with while discussing humanitarian aid. On the other hand, I also learned the importance of fact checking my research. When introducing myself to another delegate, one of the first questions was in regards to where my country stood on the topic at hand. This meant I spent a lot of time in the beginning unmoderated sessions giving brief but informative insight on my country's position. This taught me how to condense heavy amount of information into short but informative speeches.

This skill came in handy also while writing speeches throughout the conference. As we move through the topic and began working on working papers then draft resolutions, the nature of our speeches shifted. In the beginning, a majority of our speeches were introductions on what our country was aiming to accomplish and why. As we moved along, speeches became more specific and spoke directly to what was being addressed in working papers. At this time there were references to which countries were working with who and how their draft resolution may

be different or similar to other draft resolutions in the room. Because of this I was able to write my speeches accordingly to the stage we were in while working on the resolution.

Something that I learned from working with other delegates is how difficult it is for country representatives to achieve the goals of their country's agenda. As we discussed enhancing the coordination of humanitarian aid and emergency disaster relief, there were many good ideas introduced and brought forward for debate by the body. However, to promote cooperation and compromise, many ideas were diluted or dismissed all together. At times, I felt this is why it takes so long to see changes in international and domestic policies. Currently countries are more intertwined than before and must try to be considerate of each other when making decisions, but this can be harmful because what is beneficial to one nation, degenerates another. I felt that towards the ends resolutions, while detailed, still seemed too general to dramatically alter current situations but I learned the importance of planning for long-term, sustainable solutions that will provide a better turnout rather than short term solutions that are often hastily made. For our topic however, we needed short term solutions that could be employed and effective during times of crisis.

It is fairly difficult to make decisions when there are real life consequences for the wellbeing of many human beings. It adds an increasing amount of pressure to delegates. I feel that many politicians don't consider this when they make decisions for profit and to build their nation's reputation and push political agendas through war and violence.

This is my third conference and I'm most proud of my willingness to speak to others and my comfortability level while giving speeches. I am a terribly shy person and have difficulty speaking in front of others. I think that even though I did a lot of research for previous conferences, I didn't showcase that hard work the same way I did in Seattle. I had an easier time writing speeches in shorter amounts of time and as the conference progressed, I did well making it clear what Rwanda was aiming to accomplish. I'm also amazed that I actually got the contact information of some students I worked with because it reminded me that these conferences are also helpful for networking with other students. To improve, moving forward, I would do more research on other regions, in more depth. This way I can have a more thorough understanding on where other voting blocs stand before I speak with them. I also wish I maintained my enthusiasm throughout the whole conference. Towards the end of working on resolutions I did not seem as enthusiastic as before and I feel that worked against me. I should not have allowed my energy levels to be apparent in my work. While I remained engaged during unmoderated sessions, working with other delegates, I stopped giving speeches and did not speak as often during unmoderated debates. If I had the opportunity to do it again, I would make sure to stay engaged in all aspects of the process, even towards the end.

Despite my lack of engagement towards the end, the conference reminded my why I am so intrigued by international affairs and human rights. I realized that I'm not a fan of violence in any region for any reason and I am always in shock for the carelessness with which groups and persons with immense power discard lives of others. This conference made me certain I don't want to be a delegate and work in the UN in this way, but I do want to work in humanitarian rights. I would like to work with vulnerable communities, however I still would like to work at the governmental level as well and be in close proximity to those who are in charge of humanitarian laws, especially in times of crisis. On a less serious note but still important. I learned how I measure others by how they carry themselves under intense pressure. To me, how I act under pressure is extremely important because I need to be able to still think things through thoroughly and be patient, so I look for this in people that I work with or am friends with. I acknowledge that the line of work I'm aiming to do, it's very easy to get angry and lose sight of the bigger picture. This conference also increased my interest in reading more nonfiction books on different approaches and outlooks on the global poverty crisis and how different scholars feel the problem should be solved. I know that a lot of ideas have been discussed in terms of solving global poverty but I would like to read more in-depth on the variety of strategies that have been tried in different environments. Overall I'm proud to admit that I've noticed improvements in myself from my first two conferences to this one and while I know there are areas I need to do better in, I am certain I will overcome those obstacles the next time I am able to participate in Model United Nations.

# POLS 427 – Model UN

6 December 2018

# Model UN Reflection

For the past year, I have been honored to be a part of the Model United Nations team at Channel Islands. In this experience, I have attended four conferences in Seattle, Portland, and San Francisco. It is hard to put into words how this opportunity has impacted my life as there are so many things I have taken away from being a delegate. Model United Nations is hard and has pushed my limits more than I thought imaginable. Because of the growth that has come out of these experiences, I have come to a newfound love and appreciation for research, debate, and cooperation. As I reflect back on the past three semesters of Model UN, I would like to focus on a few key takeaways: confidence, perseverance, and community.

When it comes to my self-confidence in my life, Model UN has actually played a significant role in helping me build up confidence. This began when I showed up to my first conference in Seattle thinking I was a new delegate who did not know anything and had nothing to bring to the table. As a result, I took a very quiet stance throughout the conference and did not let the research I had done be heard in my committee. Leaving this conference, I felt defeated and upset with where I was at and was ready to leave the team. However, on the walk back to the subway, I was very surprised to hear I had won the position paper award for my committee. This sparked something in me to realize that my research did actually have credibility and maybe I did deserve to be at the conference. Now, I do not mean to put worth in an award because I know that they usually are not very accurate, but I am thankful for this award because it led me to continue with Model UN and further find my confidence in research. Furthermore, moving on to the next semester, I was able to speak up in the conferences and be more engaged because I had

confidence in my research and my position. While attending the conference, there were a few instances where another country called my country out and I was able to compose myself and speak in confidence in front of the whole committee sticking up for my country. Now, I would not have had the courage to do this at my first conference. It is something that grew with each day I had been a delegate at these various conferences.

I have been able to see how growing in this capability to speak in front of others and use my research has impacted the rest of my life. Throughout Model UN, I have gained confidence that I have let seep into other areas of my life. For example, it is easier for me to give presentations in my classes. I carry more confidence in my opinions and actually want to speak up. Furthermore, Model UN has shown me the power in knowledge and how important it is to do your research before speaking up. It is very aggravating to be listening to someone giving a speech in committee that you know is not well-researched. While I will admit research is not my favorite thing to do and I definitely do not have a knack for it like some people do, I still understand the importance of doing good research.

Model UN has helped me understand that I like to share my mind and I believe I have specific desire and calling to be able to do this in large group settings. Being in committee has provided opportunities for me to grow in that. However, Model UN has also showed me that I can only do this well when I am passionate about what I am speaking about. I have learned this because there are things that come up in committee that I do not have a passion and therefore, will not do a good job presenting on it. This last year I have been able to step into new roles of leadership in my life that have given me opportunity to speak about my passions and I approach and present on these things in a more captivating way than through my speeches at Model UN. It has been encouraging to be able to be in Model UN and understand that it is not necessarily my passion and that is okay. Before the experience, I strongly thought that eventually my career goal would be working either with the UN or a similar international organization. Being in Model UN has taught me to have respect for those positions, but ultimately revealed that it is not what I anticipate doing. I am thankful that I stuck with it for three semesters even if it is not my passion because it has still taught me a lot and brought me to have pride in myself for doing something so strenuous and challenging.

As far as actually being in committee, that teaches you a lot about perseverance and tests your ability to stay awake and focused. While the topics can be interesting and something you care about, I think it is difficult for anyone to sit in a room for 3+ hours and not have a burning desire to fall asleep. The ability to stay focused is something that I have grown in with each conference, but sometimes it is too much. Particularly when you have students who are repeating their speeches to get a better grade and it is the third time you have heard them say it. In the unmoderated debates, it gives more freedom to be able to interact with students and collaborate to write papers, but it is still a lot to jam pack into three days. I appreciate the challenge to see how long we will last in committee before we need to start taking extended breaks or go take a breather outside. I naturally have a short attention span, so this is not helpful in these committees. I think is something I have still grown in though.

Honestly, my favorite part about being on the Model United Nations team has been the community I have formed with fellow CI students and friendships created in committee. What is so neat about Model UN is that it brings people together who normally would not know each other but share a collective desire to see the world become a better place. Through this time, I have become friends with a myriad of people who I appreciate so much. To this day, there are some of us that still have a group chat from last year that check in and share jokes with one another. These are relationships that bonded over doing research together and spending a weekend in a different city where we only knew each other. It has been so fun to explore new cities with new people alongside getting to rant and share about how our committees are going. This support system has been beneficial in the trying and frustrating times of committee and also bring joy at the end of the day when you just need to leave the committee mindset and have some fun. I am thankful for the people I have met through this opportunity and I know we share a unique bond by being on the Model UN team together. Without getting into too much detail, this community was particularly special to me this last conference in Seattle where I needed a larger support system due to circumstances. The conference would not have been bearable had I not had my fellow classmates there to laugh, cry, and be by my side.

The Model UN experience in general is unique and there is no way to fully understand what it does unless you attend as a delegate. Before this, I always learned about the UN and thought it was awesome but did not realized the stress and frustration that comes with it. Model UN has taught me that the reason the UN cannot provide as much aid or assistance as I think necessary is because of how impossible it is to actually get the international world on board. There are so many differing opinions and conflicts that prevent things from actually getting done. I respect those in the UN so much more than before this experience. I cannot imagine trying to actually solve the problems of the world as it is difficult enough doing it as a simulation. I know that it needs to be done and there are unique people equipped for those roles and I have seen fellow delegates that have the passion and tenacity for the job, so I look forward to seeing where they go from this experience.

Overall, I am grateful to have been on this team for the past year and I look forward to seeing how it grows and what good will come out of it. It has been an honor to be a delegate

from Channel Islands at four conferences and I hope that I was able to represent our university well. Thank you to Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl for letting me have this experience and providing space for me to intellectually and personally grow. POLS 427 Model UN December 1<sup>st</sup>, 2018

# **Reflection Paper**

In my opinion, Model UN was a great opportunity for self-development. When the first session begins I realized that one of the most important things you have to do is be prepared. Your country name should be on the speaker list, so you have the opportunity to share your ideas before the first block session, because that way other countries will already know your position and it will be faster for them to approach you during that break and start engaging conversation. This could lead to become one of the most influential people on the committee. It's also crucial to go around through several groups to understand each country positions in the particular issue and to which countries could be a good fit to work with you on your resolution paper, and which other countries will be more negotiation to either find a way to work together and made sure both countries have something to benefit for a similar resolution even if they might have different core values. I have to say the way you talk to the other delegates also have a lot to say about how's going to be working with someone. I encountered with a lot of delegates that cut you off in the middle of the conversation to introduce their own idea, for me, that tactic was to rude and I decide to engage with them but not as much because I knew they will not let me express my own opinions. I was really open to listen other delegates and also if they where just listening to other delegates I try to ask them their position and try to facilitate conversation. One of the things that I had to observe in the Model UN was how difficult it could be in a real UN committee to pass a resolution. The delegate of Qatar was really focused on her position and in a period of the session she was crying because she realized that core values of this country was all

against her views, and other delegates including me have to show diplomacy and work through a resolution that includes all ideas but in a way that wouldn't affect any country. We have to be supportive and understanding about how different countries do not think the same due to religion or culture, this experiences made me realized that international relations is a career where is critical to learn and know how to work with other countries.

This experience also made me so proud because I challenge myself – One of the things that I worked so hard was to write as many perambulatory that I could think for my country. I'm always conscious about speaking or writing in English, because I always fear that people will not understand what I want to say, but I decided to left that idea behind and make sure my opinions where in the paper and I was not only there nodding to everything. During the committee I try to give opinions on every perambulatory and operative clauses and ask questions and concerns if I felt that there where not clear enough. I end up helping other delegates to do more research on their ideas to working towards a better-written paper. One of my perambulatory was one of the points that my director and other delegates consider really important and good idea to have, the idea of "no one left behind" where people with disability should obtain more rights and protections in order to have the same opportunities in education, health care and opportunity jobs. Another thing that I really enjoy about the conference was the learning experiences about this broad topic. As I was doing research about the topic of people with disability it made me become conscious that I had so much to keep learning about this problem and there is a vast things that we have to accomplished for people with disability because it become clear to me that there are still improvement to be done.

Even though, I felt really proud of myself of achieving more that I thought I was going to do in this event, I believed I could work on more things. For instance, at the beginning I started

really motivated and I was the first one in the speaking list but as there was a change of motion during the conference my name was erased and from that moment I panicked. I consider myself as someone who is not shy at all and can talk in any circumstance, but because it was my first Model UN, I felt completely insecure about how the whole conferences works. During the first day I was trying to get a hold of how the whole weekend was going to be looking at, but without knowing it I was already behind in talking my ideas by being at the speaker list, and not engaging as more conversation with other delegates during the moderate caucasian. Also, I completely panicked when I felt unprepared even though I been doing a lot of research of this problem I realized that I couldn't used my computer, so instead of that I should be prepared and printed all my papers and making more notes to be ready to be added into the guest spoken list and don't be frighten to speak because I have enough background information with my.

Honestly, Model UN was happening during a time where everything was happening back in CA and my focus wasn't entirely in the conferences as I was continually worried to know if the fire was contained or not, and that definitely affect my performance that I knew I could gave. However, I learned that I have a good judgment and know how to work in groups. I know how to listen, make friend but also make sure my ideas are heard and taken into account. I felt that in my group I was a leader who could guide the group into finishing in time and keeping focus, organize and at the same time having moments to get to know each other and make it fun. In the future I will like to not only be the leader how make the environment friendly, but also be the one who end up taking more merits at the end of the conference. Furthermore, I try to make everyone welcome as there where other people who got to Seattle until the second day and where lost and I try to make sure they didn't felt as outsiders or confused, as I wouldn't like to be that person. Lastly, I love to get to know people from the school, and from the committee and end up having a good relationship. It was so fun to get to know different people and create new connections that could go for a lifetime. I consider myself, as an easygoing person, which I know, is a virtue that will help me in the future.

Model United Nations

Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl

6 December 2018

# **Reflection Paper**

Model United Nations is not a class I would have seen myself in before this semester. In fact, it is not a class I knew much about either. Having been apart of model UN this semester gave me an opportunity to learn more about the United Nations and how a conference might be ran between the many member states. This unique experience is unlike any other class and I am thankful to have had this opportunity.

Our conference this semester was in Seattle and as far as I know a pretty accurate representation of a true conference with in The United Nations. Upon my first day I realized just how large the number of people who participate in these conferences was. The opening ceremonies were very helpful information wise and the opening speech made for an interesting open forum. Moving into our first session I was not quite prepared for the experience. I was apart of UNCAC and our head chairs were very professional despite some discrimination issues happening. The first speeches were very helpful to see how things ran and to hear about other countries positions on these topics I had spent so much time researching myself. I realized very quickly how much you become your country; I did not even learn most of the participants names. The hardest part for me was writing solutions. It was easy to group up with countries who had similar positions as you but writing the paper in a large group was not. I tried to help as much as I could and start on smaller papers to get my own resolutions in but once the group grows and we get corrections back it seemed best for one or two people to finish it. I also was worried about being able to remember the terms used like unmoderated caucus but I caught on very quickly because they are used so often through out the day. Speaking of, the breaks always went by so fast. Even a 45 minute caucus felt more like 20 minutes so we always had to work quickly. I wish there was more time at least the first day to get the hang of everything especially over the breaks when we were on our own. Since this is more a beginners conference, a lot of people needed more help to know what to do but eventually most caught on. I totally got what everyone talked about in class how people tag onto you if you sound smart or like you have a plan. One of the days I ended up with a group of people kind of following me even though I did not feel like I was doing much. That made me realize how many other people were new to model UN like me so I became more comfortable.

Our committee was a pretty interesting one to be apart of as were our topics. For example one was corruption in sport. This is clearly a big issue but it had never really crossed my mind who regulates or tries to prevent corruption when it is happening at a global level. Something like a professional soccer game or the Olympics needs to be governed in a just way between many cultures and beliefs. Having an opportunity to research and gain more knowledge on my specific committee and topics opened my eyes as to how much the UN works to maintain international relations.

I am most proud of my ability to break out of my shell at the conference and talk to other delegates. I would call myself friendly but I'm not always the type to walk up and talk to people I do not know. During our breaks I make a point to talk to who I knew would have similar positions as me and work with them on starting a paper. I was able to engage more in the conference from not staying on the outside to myself so I am really happy I did that. I also made friends with some people from other schools and exchanged numbers with them to keep in touch. This definitely gave me more confidence in speaking up about my ideas. I also was able to use my knowledge of Spanish and read some UN documents that were only in Spanish from Columbia which was really cool. I've spent so much time learning the language and being able to utilize it in my research felt awesome.

When I think of what I could have improved on it stems more from the pre-conference preparation. I felt slightly un-prepared and should have done more research on my own to know what to expect. The first day was all about getting the hang of how things ran for me and what to expect in future sessions. I also wish I would have researched a little more on my topics because I did not feel like I knew as much as other people. I know there was a lot going on in our community at the time but before hand I could have put more effort into at least one of my topics for sure and for the others it would not have hurt. When getting into all of the documents and information online it can get very overwhelming so I think starting earlier would have helped me but also knowing what information to focus on and what to just keep in the background would have helped too. I kept myself very focused on just Columbia and I wish I would have also focused more on the Latin America region as a whole as some other delegates did. It brought a better understanding and I wish I could have contributed more in that aspect.

As far as just the conference goes I think I could have tried harder to contribute to our solution papers. I only got very involved in one and it made me wish I tried harder to help on the others but I was kind of unsure I was doing the right thing so I stayed back and let other people lead that more. For the second topic I helped a lot more and wrote solutions of my own which were included and it was really cool so again if I had researched a little more and maybe practiced writing some I would have had more confidence.

In the end this experience definitely taught me to appreciate the United Nations and the many jobs they take on to try and better our world. It is almost impossible to get so many people and cultures to agree or be on the same page a lot of the time but the United Nations still does a great job with what they can do. Even though we just pretended to be the UN it made me think more about how much work and time people put into their committees just trying to work together for a better world. For that reason, I have a bigger appreciation for model UN and I hope some day more people can learn about what they do outside of a global studies class. Learning more about Model UN and how many delegates work together puts so much into perspective. This is another exciting reason to look more into culture and how it affects member state relationships around the world and their own policies.

This also reaffirmed my interest in learning about other countries and the way their governments and societies differ from ours. In our area I do not think we spend much time in school learning about other governments or economies the way that may countries learn about ours. This was also my first experience going to a conference and it made me realize how exhausting mentally and physically things get. By the last day I was struggling a lot from being so overwhelmed and I was looking forward to being home. I think in the future I need to prepare better myself to hopefully avoid that crash. As a whole this was quite an experience that I will have forever. While I do not see myself returning to model UN, I still enjoyed my time this semester and loved meeting everyone.

6 December, 2018

# **Reflection Paper**

When reflecting on this class and my experience this semester I cannot help but remember how nervous and excited I was at the same time. It was not nerves of public speaking or negotiating with others, I was nervous that I did not know NWMUN procedure and decorum, and that would impact my ability to effectively participate in the conference. These fears were made worse by the tragic events that took place in Ventura County only days before we left for Seattle. Not being able to have our mock session the Friday class before we left, and the confusion leading up to our departure only added to my nervousness, and I almost convinced myself that my lack of confidence and experience would prevent me from performing at the conference. Looking back, I am happy to say that all of my fears and nerves were ridiculously exaggerated and unnecessary. The conference as a whole was an amazing experience and I cannot wait to participate in the Spring semester conferences.

The most important lesson I learned through this conference about international relations, diplomacy and negotiations is to have no fear and be confident in yourself. Once the conference began, with additional help from the Delegate Preparation and Training Session, I felt all of my nerves and uncertainties disappear. The conference environment was much less hostile than I was lead to believe and I settled in very quickly. I was well prepared with knowledge on my State, committee, and desired goals of my delegation. I learned that you have to be fearless in order to succeed in international negotiations and diplomacy. The delegates that seemed timid and nervous were often left out of the "big table" and did not have much impact on the work made during the conference. As soon as I embraced the situation and stepped out of my comfort zone I was able to thrive in the competitive environment and had lots of fun doing so. I am very proud of the progress the African block working group and myself were able to accomplish. It was evident from the beginning that my regional block had very competent delegates and together we controlled the outcomes of our committee. My committee was unique in that we covered three separate issues, and could only pass one resolution per topic. The States and delegates in my region all shared very similar goals and ideas, allowing for successful cooperation which in the end produced results. Even though we faced challenges from different blocks and delegations throughout the sessions, we were still able to have all 3 of our resolutions pass. Even though African nations are usually not a large player in international politics, we became the leaders and directors in our committee. Many large, influential, and Western States such as the United States, China, and the UK came to our block for guidance. When there were disagreements in policy between our block and another, while trying to merge our working papers, it was often the other block that had to compromise in order to merge, knowing that there's individually would not have the support to pass. Even though our block controlled the pace and outcomes of all 3 issues and resolutions, I am most proud of our commitment to international cooperation and global governance. We made our best efforts to include every States goals into our working paper, and merge with as many blocks as possible. We recognized very early in the conference the influence our block had on our committee and made it our objective to be as inclusive as possible. The whole purpose of the United Nations is to promote global cooperation and governance, and we wanted to reflect that in our working paper. Although I performed well above my expectations from before the conference started, there is always room for improvement. I believe that one area of international negotiations I can work on is not becoming passive when conflict occurs. Unfortunately, many times throughout our committee's sessions, the tension became high and delegates became hostile. Contrary to common procedure, delegates from a certain CSU attempted to work together, even if their States position were not compatible. This lead to unnecessary chaos when trying to merge working papers, and damaged the integrity of our block. This occurred in every session, and by the 2nd and 3rd topic, I distanced myself from the negotiations because I was becoming frustrated and did not want to become belligerent with the opposing delegates. The ways I can improve is by not removing myself from the table. Instead, I should have stayed strong headed and helped lead the negotiations. I should have confronted the delegates from the problematic CSU, and reminded them that all negotiations should be made from the viewpoint of your State, and not in efforts to improve your performance for a better personal evaluation. This is not a complaint about that university or their delegates, it is a reflection of myself, realizing that I should have been more outspoken and taken control of the situation instead of taking a passive approach.

Looking back at the conference and class as a whole, I am very grateful to have had the opportunity to participate in this class and look forward to retaking the class in the Spring. I learned a lot about myself through this conference and will use those lessons to improve for the next conferences. I learned to step out of my comfort zone and be confident in myself as a public speaker in international politics. I have never had an issue with public speaking with topics I am familiar with, but I struggle with new material or subjects I am less confident in my expertise of. In those situations, I usually become timid and quiet. In the process of my blocks success, I was mainly responsible for greeting and creating relationships with States outside our geographic region. I was usually the first impression between our block and States who we wished to gain

support from. I also helped in negotiations when attempting to merge working papers, often being the mediator between the two blocks. I believe that this is a testament to my interpersonal communication skills as well as my international relations skills that my block entrusted me with this task. This whole experience has helped greatly with my confidence and will hopefully provide with inspiration to step out of my comfort zone more often in the future, knowing that with hard work and preparation, I can be successful.

### POLS 427 Model UN Reflection Paper

Fall 2018

I was given the great opportunity to be part of the Model UN class at CSUCI in the fall semester of 2018. This opportunity allowed me to learn and understand much about the beautiful city of Seattle, the model UN system, state of the world, the nature of humans, and myself. Of these, I will discuss the three most important things: the model UN system, people, and myself.

The Model United Nations is this epic microcosm of academia, fantasy, and social skills. This class at CSUCI was made known to myself by a former member and I was delighted to find out about it. Through the class I was able to learn about the fundamental pillars of the UN, its current context, and the specific perspectives of certain nations. The curriculum took me on a journey through different times, places, and people. I was able to experience the world from a classroom in rural California. This is all a bit esoteric, I must admit, however it is nonetheless true.

I have access to a vast ocean of information and am able to self-educate myself on the matters of the world. This reality goes largely unrealized because I did not have the context or motivation to do so. This being said, the model UN class allowed me to do such a thing by being placed in the situation in which to learn these matters. Through this class I learned of the basic history of the UN, its organizational structure, its operation, and current events associated with it. I was assigned the nation of Rwanda and placed in the committee, the International Organization for Migration. These parameters allowed me to focus my research efforts and how to best learn in the class. Unfortunately, this class would not prepare me for the gauntlet that would be the

Seattle Model UN conference. It was here, at the Renaissance Seattle Hotel, where 4 grueling days of faux international diplomacy would take place. This hallowed battlefield is where I truly learned of the model UN system and by proxy the real world. I learned of the rules of procedure, proper dress code, process of resolution creation, the best and worst of humans, and the limits of my person.

During the conference, I was able to learn about the process of setting the agenda, socializing and networking, organizing into working groups, and the arduous journey of resolution creation. It was through these trials, the limits of my mind, body, and spirit were put to the test. Being an introvert, social interactions can be incredibly draining and as such, I had to monitor my energy levels and find times to recharge myself to be an effective committee member. My communication skills came into great play during the sessions as I was able to coordinate my fellow delegates into working groups which would result in resolutions. Unfortunately, the

In this class, I was most proud of completing the task I had set for myself. The task... to learn. I joined the model UN class because I wanted to experience all that it had to offer. I believed the class to be something where I traveled, met new and diverse peoples, understood different cultures, identified problems, created solutions, and to become an involved citizen of this world. By these measures, I feel that I have accomplished each one in a variety of ways. I have a past of poor choices and I am glad to say that joining model UN was definitely not one. This goes to say that I feel I have made an excellent choice in joining, engaging, and learning in the class, which I could not be more proud of.

At the conference, I felt I could have done better in preparation and time management. I felt very unprepared and unsure of how the conference would. It is very difficult to know how to

prepare if one has never been to an model UN conference. Specifically, I would have spent more time learning about the history of the committee and the items on the agenda. This type of knowledge would have been incredibly helpful in the creation of resolutions, as well as forming an overall strategy for the conference. In addition, I would like to have been better at managing my time. I could have been more attentive to discerning which delegates and working groups I should have worked with.

This experience taught me a great deal about myself in terms of my interests and passions, future career aspirations, and being attuned to my personal state. Through the class, I was able to find that I have a love for working collaboratively with people to address serious issues. I 've found that I may pursue a pathway in the peace corps or the united nations. In addition, I've become increasingly aware of the limits to my mind, body, and soul. Conferences are stressful environments with high levels of stimulation. Being an introvert, I've learned that I need to properly manage my energy levels in order to be a high functioning delegate. I also need to nourish my body with the right foods as well as adequate sleep. I also need to meditate in order to clear my head and remain as cogent as possible.

To Dr. Scholl, Dr. Grove, and the IRA committee, thank you so much for this amazing experience. It has enriched my life, personally, academically, and professionally, to great lengths. I am proud to say that this class will further propel me into becoming a benefit to this world.

Thank you.

# POLS 427

Model UN

# **Reflection Paper**

Taking this Model United Nations class has been such a unique experience for me. Especially as an individual pursuing a science based major, nursing, it has pushed me to branch off from my typical studies of anatomy, physiology, biology, etc into global politics and diplomacy. Pushing myself into this realm of research has been exciting and rigorous; not simply because it diverges so much from the disciplines I am so consistently involved with, but also because the more I learn about the world and people through the views of diplomacy the more I enjoy this area of study. I found it to be refreshing as I began researching the United Nations and the countries I was to represent, Ukraine and the Kingdom of Denmark. As I learned more I was consistently reminded of the similarities between those countries and the country I have lived my entire life in, altering my personal views towards each nation. Through this course I have learned so much about how the framework of politics is so closely paired with history, religion, and culture; often relating to ideas established long before the country was even founded. In studying Ukraine it was impossible to understand their politics, especially rising tensions with Russia, without first acknowledging the strong social context between the two nations. While Ukraine and Russia were both apart of the Soviet Union, and parts of modern Ukraine still share strong religious, ethnic and linguistic ties, they are two countries who have diverged greatly since that period of time. Historical context also bred a broader understanding of Ukraine's human rights beliefs as that was my focus for the Portland conference. There was a difference between

knowing the Ukrainian belief in democracy and understanding why democracy is valuable to the Ukrainian people, that discrepancy made all the difference in both my approach to simulating diplomacy as well as my enjoyment of my research. One unique aspect of diplomacy which was implemented at the conference was not simply political ideologies, but diplomacy in the form of allies. I found this a very unique simulation to take part in through the representation of both nations, with different government structures and social beliefs, as I automatically gravitated towards nations which I knew to be allies of mine. Those allied nations consequently shared similar beliefs towards the topics at each conference, and I feel that aspect of the conferences made sense on a realistic level but it was something which I personally had never noticed prior.

At each conference I was very proud of the myself in that I was able to provide the greatest contribution to the group as a whole be working to my strengths. One unique aspect of the Model UN environment is that at each conference every individual is acting as the representative of one distinct country, while the objective is to participate in a group environment between everyone, as is the true nature of the United Nations. In turn each individual is able to contribute towards a shared goals by focusing on areas which they can be the most beneficial in. My strength in this setting is in my speaking capabilities, as I was very good at articulating what I wanted other delegates to hear from me in order to build the foundation of diplomatic interactions. I was also able to use this skill to act as a mediator between fellow delegates of diverse nations to establish equal group centered around cooperation and a mutual goal. I felt that this skill was also reflexive of politics in the real world, as mediation is absolutely essential for uniting different nations towards their ideal future. Especially in representing the Kingdom of Denmark for the UN Environmental Assembly I felt that using my speaking abilities was very effective in acting as a more friendly voice between

EU nations, the Latin American block, and the African block, as in real life Denmark is involved in all these regions of the world especially pertaining to environmental progress. I was also able to watch personal progress in my overall abilities between the first and second conference, as I gained confidence I was able to better push myself and build upon what I had learned at Portland. One thing I improved upon was in preparation prior to the conference I laid out a spreadsheet based around each of the three topics for the conference, providing multiple example of how Denmark is currently addressing those three environmental problems as well as links to their sources. This made me feel much better prepared entering into resolution language as I had the unique sources to provide to other delegates which could be suggested for adaptation on a regional or national level.

At the Portland conference I wish that I had been more effective at introducing myself and communicating to all of my fellow delegates at the very start of the conference. I say this because by the second resolution the primary groups had been established for drafting working language, and I feel that I became too comfortable in this and therefore did not push myself as much as I should have. I also feel that in limiting who I worked with was less realistic because in real life, countries need to work with diversity of other nations towards achieving larger goals. I also wish that I had done more research on other nations, focusing mainly on the three topics presented in order to come in better equipped to find appropriate delegates I could have worked with for each topic. Another thing which I would like to change about my actions at the Portland Conference is that I would have liked to have come more prepared in relation to resolution drafting and the specific language to use. While I was able to pick up on a lot of of the structuring and resolution language I would have felt more comfortable if I had taken the time to read resolution examples entering into the conference to then know what they looked like, focusing on the discrete structure required.

I originally applied for this class simply because I thought it would be a unique and exciting way to challenge myself, and I had enjoyed working with Dr. Scholl so much the semester prior I was hoping to again. As I am pursuing a degree in Nursing, my opportunities to take classes outside of the narrow scope of my major requirements and general education is minimal, but I did not want to let this opportunity pass. At this point I can say that I am so thankful to have taken this class as through these two conferences I have expanded upon what I previously wanted to pursue in my professional life. Almost immediately into my research I realized how much I genuinely love global politics, as well as a diplomatic take towards bettering our society for all individuals. Especially after reading the UN Declaration of Human Rights I have come to the firm conclusion that access to proper healthcare and medicine should be incorporated as being a fundamental human right. I have always believed that medicine can open so many door to the rest of the world, but after taking this class I have truly fallen in love with the desire to use my degree and pursue work with a UN entity, pairing medicine with diplomacy. These experiences also taught me about how much I enjoy mediating between groups and finding a shared connection between differing ideologies, it was what I found hardest and most rewarding about each conference. I fully intend to use the experiences which I have gained through taking this class in the pursuit of my future career path, as I am beyond thankful and satisfied with what I was able to accomplish.

Through the Model United Nations conferences preparation and during the conferences, I learned about different countries stances on certain issues and how hard they were willing to fight for their say in a matter. During the preparations for the conferences when making the policy paper and country profile, I learned about how my countries viewed certain matters, and how I had to act like I agreed with them and tried to fight for their say in the matter. This was hardest for me at MUNFW, when the viewpoint of Tanzania on sexual rights was far different than my own. I had to defend these principles, and work with countries who shared the same interests of these principles to come up with a working resolution that would be well-received throughout the whole congregation.

When it came to diplomacy, I had to try and get my points in resolutions, and had to be willing to walk out of the document if I did not agree with one of them or they ended up getting rid of my point down the line without discussing it with me. This happened in Portland during one of the mergings of documents. The points I had made on one document ended up not being transferred over or was glanced over with little to no interest, so I had to make the decision to keep working with the document and be a sponsor, or to maybe be a signatory and instead work on another document I signed on as a sponsor. I ended up doing that, and the cooperation on that second document was much better than the first one I was working on. I think part of that has to be on the countries I was working with. There were more countries that were cooperative and shared my state's (Mexico's) ideas.

Throughout the conferences I had to do something that is not usually me. I had to go out of my introverted bubble and had to go up to people and be social with them about important matters. This got me to learn to be more open and become more approachable. So in a way I had to learn about myself. I didn't know I was capable of being more out there, but it helps that I get to kind of play a character. In this case, a diplomat from a certain country.

At the Portland conference, I feel most proud of contributing on and getting a resolution passed. This was my first Model United Nations conference, and I didn't know what to expect. Sure I had those mock ones we did in class, but this was on a grander scale, with a bunch of people I had never met before. I wanted to do well and at least look like I knew what I was talking about. We ended up barely getting our first topic finished in time with the conference that we only had one hour to solve the Palestine conflict. The good thing was that we got all three resolutions passed unanimously, which I think was both a thing of accomplishment and also that we were just tired of talking about climate change. Overall, my big takeaway from the Portland conference was that it was my first one, so I was just proud to contribute in a meaningful way and pick up some tricks along the way. I think the overall environment at Portland helped with that, too. It was more laid back and the people there were willing to help others rather than go at each other's throats. It could have been due to the subject we were discussing, too. I mean, I think everyone wants the world to be safe, right?

From MUNFW, I think my proudest moment was being able to communicate with everyone like I believed what I was saying. As Tanzania, it was hard for me to fight for what they believed in. They wanted internet to be more restricted and are anti-LGBT. I think the internet should be free and I think LGBT people are fine and you can love whoever you want. However, I had to debate with states whose ideologies I'd agree with, but I had to disagree with them because I had to do what my country believed in. I'm proud I did this because it helped me get more self confidence in myself and allowed me to see things the other side of my beliefs. However, I couldn't talk much in the first topic as I could in the second topic. This was mainly because Tanzania is a developing country and still has to use internet cafes for internet. Rather talk about the security and freedom of the internet, I talked about educating developing states to give them more of a say and spread the access to the internet globally.

Something I could've done better at Portland was talk more. I would have an idea and point I would want to speak about, but then we'd go to an unmoderated caucus and the point would be less and less relevant and I'd have to constantly modify my speech. I also would try and talk to more nations. I found myself talking to some of the same nations, which is fine when developing the resolution paper, but if I talked with more nations I would get more ideas and see what other topics matched my states ideologies on climate change, meaning I could make sure my requirements could be added to a resolution paper. To add to that, I felt like there were people dictating most of it, and I'm kind of a quiet speaker (unless I'm playing video games. Then I'm too loud according to my parents), so I felt like I was not really heard. This also could've been because it was a large group as the two largest groups merged papers. So, being the smart guy, I start to work more on another resolution I was going to sponsor, as it was much smaller and my voice could be heard more. Overall though, I'd say something I could have done better was speak more and louder.

At MUNFW, I felt like something I could have done better was have more of a firm foot on some matters. I tended to let others have more of a say, and I felt helpless as a developing African country. The delegate from Norway was fighting for other African states to have more say in the first topic (Tanzania and Norway did not see eye to eye on the second topic), but some of the states were more focused on arguing over a merger. I honestly thought a brawl was going to start the tensions were so high. Fortunately it didn't get to that and everything eased down. However, the fact I had to rely on other states just so I could get my piece in the whole resolution was not what I had in mind. The third topic (The one they gave us last minute) I felt I had a grasp on, and I think I did the best with that topic. We pretty much stayed as an African block and all shared the same ideas as a whole. I also think that my state had more of a say with that topic, which helped me stay firm in ideas I wanted on the paper.

The experiences taught a bit about me, both in the conferences and out of it. The first conference in Portland I was super excited for not just because it was in Portland, but also because it was my first Model United Nations conference. I didn't know what to expect out of the whole ordeal. It was a bunch of nervousness and excitement. It took a bit of time to get used to, but soon I was typing away on a resolution paper. I enjoyed my Portland experience, and it taught me that I could do this. I could be more social and I can actually approach people and talk without stuttering or being the shy guy I usually am. It taught me that I could at least look like I knew what I was doing and that I was able to have a good time with people who were complete strangers at first but had grown to great acquaintances, some even friends.

At the MUNFW conference, I was more confident than the last one. I felt I had a grasp on how things were done, meaning that I could prepare to talk with other nations and be more diplomatic with my peers. So that experience helped me become more assertive and have more fun with it. I was not as nervous as I was in Portland, plus I felt I had a better grasp on the topics we'd be discussing. I also learned I could fight for topics I did not agree with from the MUNFW conference. I didn't agree with Tanzania's stance on different issues, so I learned how to put my own opinions aside and fight for what my country believed in. It was actually more enjoyable than I thought, and that's what I took away from both conferences. I had fun.

**POLS 427** 

#### Model UN Reflection Paper

In terms of a college course, Model United Nations was undoubtedly one of the most memorable classes I have taken in my educational career at CSUCI as well as one of the greatest learning experiences I have partaken in. At first, I had little to no idea about how the United Nations actually operated or what it truly did. I had always seen the United Nations logo in the news, in books, in other forms of media, and was aware that they had a large presence in less developed regions of the world, but did not realize the true impact which the UN could have until taking this interactive course. I signed up for model UN primarily because I already had an extensive passion and interest in subjects such as history and geography but had a desire to further my knowledge, in which model UN turned out to be the perfect opportunity.

At the two conferences we attended, I learned much more than I have in any classroom setting. One of the most crucial things I learned was that even if the state you are delegating has a generally bad moral viewpoint or differs from your personal opinion, you still have to represent the ideologies of your nation. I say this because at the MUNFW conference in San Francisco, I was assigned with representing the Republic of Chile in the UN High Commissioner for Refugees. The tough part about this situation for me was that under President Pinera's right wing administration, the state of Chile has followed a strict refugee policy, granting very few people status. Under these circumstances I was challenged but was ultimately glad that I did a good job at staying with the Chilean position. Secondly I learned that in a Model United Nations Conference everybody has a voice. I assumed that the schools representing countries such as China and the United States would have all the power in the room, but it turned out to be essentially the opposite. For example, at both conferences it seemed that the most obscure nations had the loudest voices and the most impact; Syria in Portland and The Central African Republic in San Francisco. Furthermore, the two weekends I spent at MUN conferences taught me an extensive amount of information not about just my state but every state in the room which I collaborated with. Whether I was talking about climate issues in Portland or addressing statelessness in San Francisco, I heard a massive amount of information from various states regarding their policies, history, and stance on the given issue. Another thing which I learned from both MUN conferences has to do with negotiating. After just a few hours at your first conference, you will immediately recognize that some delegates are very passionate, very aggressive and have strong speaking skills. Although I was intimidated at first, after the first day at the MUNFW conference in Portland I learned to not appear as weak and to make myself a presence in the room, even though I was representing the relatively powerless and war torn African state of Angola. You will learn from MUN that the veteran delegates should not scare you and that there are many other delegates there for their first time who just want to learn and experience MUN in action. Finally, the most important and significant thing which I believe I learned overall from taking this course is regarding the major issues which impact the world today. By extensively diving into to topics which determine the future of humanity I can confidently say that every delegate in the room walked out with a greater sense of appreciation for humanity. Without attending NWMUN or MUNFW I would definitely not be aware of the severity of issues like the war in Yemen, the Israel-Palestine conflict, the water crisis, and many more which affect millions of humans.

At the NWMUN conference in Portland, I was most proud of myself in terms that I achieved my personal goals, being my first MUN conference. In Portland I represented the nation of Angola in the general assembly, where we collaborated on substantial issues such as the protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind and the right of the Palestinian people to self-determination. When I walked into the conference room on the first day of general discussion, I had little idea on what to expect. Personally, I never get anxious or nervous when public speaking or working with strangers since I have been performing music in front of crowds since I was five years old. However, this completely foreign environment took me out of my comfort zone and for once I actually had a sense of nervousness when giving my first speech on how climate change is impacting the people of Angola. At NWMUN, I was proud that I spoke multiple times and addressed the opinion of the Angolan people, made an alliance with fellow African member states, and put a decent amount of input onto a resolution which we referred to as "the water paper" since it solely focussed on and emphasized water related issues.

At the San Francisco MUNFW conference, I was proud of myself since I used the skills which I acquired in Portland, improved my abilities, and adopted new knowledge and experience. In San Francisco, I attended as the delegate for Chile in the UNHCR and helped discuss vital world dilemmas including the implementation of the global compact on refugees, combating xenophobia, and addressing statelessness. As the Chilean delegate I believe I excelled in two areas. First, I am proud that I spoke multiple times per session and further improved my communication skills. Also, I was one of the key players along with the Egyptian, Chinese, and Moroccan delegations in passing a final resolution on the topic of statelessness. This resolution emphasized elements such as putting more efforts and funding into the #IBELONG campaign, sanctioning discriminatory states, granting citizenship status, and more. Being one of four names on a final resolution felt truly rewarding and accomplishing, showing that my hard work had most definitely paid off. Additionally, winning an award for the Chilean delegation at the final banquet gave me, along with my fellow delegates a sense of accomplishment and fulfillment, making the experience extremely memorable.

In terms of self improvement, at the Portland conference I think I could have probably improved by branching out to more geographically and politically diverse states outside of the African continent. At the San Francisco conference, I overall succeeded but possibly could have done better at negotiating with difficult states who had very firm stances on certain topics such as Iran and Algeria.

All in all, my time in MUN taught me it's okay to be uncomfortable. It showed me new viewpoints, broadened my perspectives and worldview. Model UN bettered my speaking skills and public engagement. Model UN also taught me that I have a bigger interest in diplomacy and international relations than I had previously thought. I would highly recommend Model UN to any student who has even the slightest interest in international politics, public speaking, governance, making the world a better place, or is just looking for a new experience.

May 8, 2019

MUN - Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

### **Reflection Paper**

The United Nations (UN) is such a fundamental global organization that requires diplomacy among all countries, strong international relations, past and present negotiation, and composure to effectively improve economic, social, and political categories of nations worldwide. Their objective is to improve the quality of life and there is no legitimate body that could disagree with this goal. These individuals that represent the countries must be able to hold the ability to look beyond country-to-country conflict to find proper solutions. The representatives are normally native to these countries and I can't imagine holding passion for political issues, but having to refrain from any discussions regarding them.

The class itself prepared me for the San Francisco conference a lot more; drafting a country profile allowed me to feel confident in my knowledge of the Chile's geography, economic status, political relations, etc. The time frame prior to Portland was so short and it would of been more beneficial if I had done a mini country profile paper on Ukraine prior to the General Assembly (GA) engagement. Once I had understood what these Model United Nations (MUN) conferences were like, it was much easier to be more effective in facilitating resolutions and speaking in front of large bodies regarding various global topics.

The first conference that took place in Portland was a *huge* learning experience that boosted my drive in school and made me realize that I have the capability to do so much more than just the minimum requirements that school implements. Furthermore, the conference also put real world issues in perspective. Possessing the capability to "think on your feet" was vital during this conference. Maintaining diplomacy as Ukraine while addressing the issue of the global climate was a key factor that lead to the collaboration with other unexpected member states. Due to the nature of a "mock" assembly, it was easy to address the issues of the global climate and get along with countries that Ukraine would otherwise steer clear of. The issue of the global climate had very little conflict, but took many days to draft a resolution regarding it. Member states who had land surrounded by large bodies of water grouped together, while the two other resolutions had the same ideals but decided to stay clear from any united front. In the end, merging two of the four resolution papers would of been effective but very difficult to organize. Due to the fact so many people were new to MUN, the resolutions took a lot longer than they normally would.

Although I would classify my abilities in Portland representing Ukraine as "semiineffective", I can definitely say I left feeling a sense of pride within myself. McKenna, my fellow classmate, represented the Bahamas and we were able to work together to implement an entire three sub-clauses for a resolution paper and fact-check the final product before submission. This I believe gave me and her pride in our abilities to effectively get something done in a set time frame, while still holding the values of our member states high.

During MUNFW in San Francisco, I decided with my one experience from Portland that I was going to take the initiative in comprising a resolution paper. My objective was to find all states with similar mindsets as Chile on the issue of ocean acidification in regard to food security. I knew that many fellow Latin American countries would be in support of Chile due to it being the leading economy of present-day Latin America. I was very strategic in planning which breaks I would be solidifying relationships in and with whom. I sent notes during the first ten minutes of the sessions start and created a Google Document to share with anybody backing Chile's views. Additionally, I had looked up any previous meeting with European powers and found that Chile, France, and the Netherlands had recently met regarding the UNEA and had a strong agreement regarding all environmental issues. I am most proud of my level of organization during this conference because it allowed for the quick drafting and accepted resolution regarding this issue.

I was so well organized for the first resolution, I was burnt out going into the second resolution regarding Natural Resource Extraction and the human impact it causes. I could have definitely allocated my efforts throughout the entire conference better. I wish I had participated in this resolution more. The delegate of Venezuela controlled the paper and I ended up signing on as a sponsor. Not all the areas of concern were covered in regards to Chile. Although, I did effectively voice them, they were not expressed in the resolution enough to benefit the country. Being a member of UNEA is an important issue because you are representing the ideology of an entire nation. Getting "burnt out" is not an option for the actual members or real issues within the economy can result. This is *definitely* an area that can be worked on for future MUN conferences.

Going to Portland and San Francisco Model UN conferences taught me so much about myself as a person and the way I learn. As a double major, it is hard to find a balance between both Organizational Communication and Global Studies; at the conferences I found that balance. I found things that both apply my communication skills and knowledge of other countries. Model UN pushed me to facilitate and establish relationships through communication on a political level. Being able to implement factors of organizational communication in terms of organizing data, individuals, and the solution for the issues we addressed summarizes the objective of Model UN. Additionally, knowing about not only the country you represented but the other countries who align with your ideals was key. In Portland, I represented Ukraine in the General Assembly (GA) my unlikely allies were Russia, Chile, and France for the resolution. When reflecting on both conferences, I found that the GA was a very divided assembly being that nations who normally group together in the real GA stick to that foundation. Luckily, all resolutions when I was apart of the GA did pass, but we ended up skipping on a main topic of the Palestinian/Israeli conflict which I can only imagine would stir up massive amounts of controversy. In San Francisco, I represented Chile in the United Nations Environmental Assembly (UNEA), I found that most countries were aspiring to the same thing and lots of forms of collaboration took place in that assembly. Not only were there different forms of negotiation that took place to facilitate resolutions, but also a matter of upholding diplomacy was key to these resolutions.

Some areas I wish to improve prior to Fall MUN class and Seattle conference include endurance in resolution drafting, organizing other countries more effectively, and increasing my confidence for public speaking in regards to the issues. Although I don't know the country I will be representing yet, it would be nice if I played a part in finding information regarding all sections of the country profile paper and not delegating each section to a specific individual. The experience of having two conferences under my belt will allow me to be a more effective participant for Seattle. I look forward to feeling more accomplished in the future regarding MUN. This next semester has the capability of making my short time at CI effective and full of growth. Spring 2019 POLS 427

#### **Reflection Paper**

Participating in Model UN for the second time has definitely been a challenge for me. I really strived to push myself to do better than I did at my first conference and really push myself outside my comfort zone and get involved as best as I can. This semester, at both the Portland conference and the MUNFW conference, I feel like I really delved into learning as much about my countries as I could and also as much about how my committee operates in the real United Nations. This time around, I learned even more about international relations and diplomacy and how both of those factors play a huge role in the negotiation process.

These conferences felt especially different this time around. Because I pushed myself to really get as involved as I could, I got the opportunity to see up close how the negotiation process works, as well as how diplomacy and international relations play into it. At the Portland conference, representing a middle eastern country, when working on the resolution for our first topic I naturally gravitated towards working with other middle eastern countries. We quickly became a middle eastern bloc working on a resolution tailored to what our countries needed. I noticed that there were three very distinct blocs all consisting of countries of similar geographical region. It really demonstrated how things really happen in United Nations. While there is a lot of collaboration in the UN, countries do tend to gravitate towards working within their geographical region when it comes to addressing specific topics that affect their countries in a more unique way. In our committee, each bloc was essentially working on very different resolutions, which made collaborating and negotiating vital for the success of our resolutions. I ended up acting as not only a mediator between my bloc and the others, but also found myself writing a lot of the resolution we were working on. This taught me of how important it is to collaborate with other countries to gain support for your resolution. The language of a resolution is so important when it comes to ensuring that other countries will vote in favor of it. I really had to make sure that the language in the resolution was neutral enough so that very few countries would have a problem with it, but also specific enough to address our topic thoroughly.

The MUNFW conference was very different in terms of structure and what I would have expected. At this conference, I saw a lot more of how diplomacy can play a huge role in the negotiation process. There was a huge divide in my committee with a lot of countries creating similar resolutions, but refusing to work with other countries. There were a few countries who did not maintain diplomacy throughout our session, calling out other countries during speeches, refusing to work with delegates, and bad mouthing delegates to different blocs. This made voting bloc very interesting, as a lot of delegates refused to support the resolutions of those did not maintain diplomacy throughout the process. During the UNITAR session at the beginning of the conference one of the speakers actual emphasized how important it is to maintain diplomacy no matter who you may be working with because you will be working with them everyday. It was shocking to see how some delegates held themselves throughout committee even after hearing him speak.

At each conference there were definitely things that I could have done better. At the Portland conference, I could have worked harder at getting involved in more of the other resolutions that were being written. Even though I was negotiating a lot with the other delegates I felt like I really pigeonholed myself into the resolution I was working on and didn't push myself to work on other ones. I feel like I definitely played it safe and stuck with what I knew would have been the most comfortable. At the MUNFW conference I do feel like I pushed myself harder to be as involved as I could, but I think I could have dialed it back a bit and worked a little better with other people. Because I was really pushing myself to be more involved and take a little more control, I may have lost myself a bit and took a bit too much control without allowing other people to get more involved in the resolution writing and negotiating. In the future I hope to act as more of a leader without restricting any other delegates in how they can participate. I also wish I would have stayed a little more focused at times. There were a few committee sessions that were a little long and I found it very hard at times to give 100% focus into what we were doing. I also found myself straying a little bit off topic during those long session and especially during the gaps where resolutions were being edited when I could have used that time to talk to other delegates about the other topics we had on our agenda.

These conferences, for me, have never been about getting any awards or special titles. I really strived to go into it and be as true to myself and my country as I possibly could. With that being said I am really proud of how I represented each of my countries at each of the conferences. At the Portland conference I found it quite difficult at times to really separate my own views from that of the stance my country takes on the topics, but I feel that I really put my everything into being as true to my country as I possibly could. Out of both conferences I was most proud of being voted the special rapporteur of my committee at the MUNFW conference. I was extremely honored to be able to stand in front of the General Assembly at the end of the conference and present on all the hard work that had been done in my committee. I really worked hard to be as involved as I possibly could, which made it feel really good to be elected as the special rapporteur. It felt like my hard work had really paid off at the end. At the Portland conference, I really shocked myself because going into it I wasn't sure how involved I would get.

I still found myself to be very shy and preferring to take more of a back seat in the process. I'm really proud that I was able to push myself out of my comfort zone and really shine as a leader. I'm proud that the dais for my committee saw that as well and chose me as one of the distinguished delegates in my committee. I certainly did not chase any sort of award at the conference, but it was really reassuring to receive that recognition.

Reflecting on both of the conferences, they both taught me a lot of things about myself. I really underestimated how capable I am of taking a more of a leadership role in a large group setting. These experiences really taught me to push myself as hard as I can outside of my comfort zone. A lot of the time I find that I am really hard on myself which can really be detrimental to me. These experiences have taught me that I really can shine and excel in the kind of environment that Model UN creates. I really learned so much about myself and what I am capable of achieving and it only inspires me to work even harder and push myself even further in the future. Surprisingly enough these experiences also helped me realize what career I may want to pursue in the future. I really look forward to Model UN and all of the aspects of being a delegate and preparing for the conference by learning about my country and their stance on important issues in the international community and the world. At the MUNFW conference, hearing about the experiences of people who are involved in the real United Nations, it inspired me to look into pursuing a career in global health and working with agencies like the World Health Organization. I am looking forward to participating in Model UN again next semester and cannot wait to push myself even harder and work for even more!

POLS 427 Grove and Scholl 5/8/2019

### Model UN Reflection Paper

Model UN has been one of the most enriching academic experiences that I've encountered attending Channel Islands. I learned the policies of the countries I represented like the back of my hand, and also learned more about what politics resembles like in action. Negotiations had a lot of give and take, and I had to pick and choose what to compromise and what to take a hard line on. There was a lot more compromise than I expected. I thought this was very useful to know, especially since I want to pursue politics in the future. Model UN also gave me more ideas of what sort of careers I can go into in politics and how I would get into those positions. The different speakers at each conference helped me learn what paths I could take. I have a clearer image in my head of what my future could look like. This class has also given me a greater awareness of worldly issues. Prior to taking this class I knew vaguely about issues such as the War in Yemen, or the Venezuelan crisis, but not the specifics of the issues. Now I'm very educated on these issues and on many relevant documents. I gained a lengthy knowledge on UN agencies and conventions. Largely, I was unaware of these entities aside from UNICEF or UN peacekeeping. I figured the UN did a lot, but I never knew exactly what until now. My knowledge about the world has greatly expanded and I feel like a more informed citizen.

Model UN isn't a class where the teacher force feeds you information, but one where you are responsible for learning the relevant information to accurately represent your country. I really enjoyed the freedom to learn on my own. I sought out information rather than someone just telling it to me, which made me learn it better. I really loved the depth of it all. It was hard to write a good paper, but it felt worth it when I saw how much I learned. When I demonstrated my

knowledge at conferences and when resolutions I help wrote passed, I knew that this hard work really paid off.

When I got into the class, returning members said that you can't fully understand what a conference is like until you are there. Arriving in Portland, I truly understood what they meant. There were a lot of things I was prepared for but many I didn't know how to deal with. I was initially very bad at pushing my country's agenda when it didn't align with my own personal views. I represented the Bahamas, which has policies that are more conservative than I believe in. It was hard to say that we didn't place importance on things such as LGBT rights or refugees. I definitely struggled with staying in character. However, I improved with this during MUNFW. Partially, I was better at this because of the country I was representing but also because I knew how to assert myself better. At NWMUN, I also struggled with responding to strong personalities such as China and Saudi Arabia. I didn't know how to disagree with these countries tactfully and keep diplomacy. However, in Burlingame I dealt extensively with a very in character Russia and responded gracefully. Throughout both conferences, I was glad that my preparation was solid. I always had speeches written down in advance so I never stumbled over my words. Many delegates were clearly nervous, though I feel like I did well in displaying an educated and collected persona.

In Portland, I think my strong suit lay in research. I was well researched on certain topics and tried to stick only to what I knew. I knew the specifics of treaties and conventions and excelled in writing resolutions. My proudest moment was when my group finished the Bhutan working paper and was accepted into a draft resolution. I was so proud that all of our stress and hard work paid off so soon. Given that my group consisted of all newcomers, we took a long time to figure out exactly what we needed to do. We figured it out, though it was very stressful. I was proud because I wrote a lot of that paper and contributed many ideas. Seeing my first efforts come into fruition was so amazing. I was also proud of being the first speaker on the speakers list on the first session and having a lot of delegates approach me and want to hear my ideas and work with me. It made me feel like they recognized me as a leader and someone who knew what she was doing. Many were surprised to know this was my first conference. I gained a lot of confidence from that.

In Burlingame, my diplomacy skills grew and I went around to talk with other blocs more often. I became more of an all rounder rather than only academically inclined. I also stayed more in character by sticking to my country's bloc. As the Bahamas I floated around and allied myself with countries that the real Bahamas probably wouldn't associate with. As Denmark, I stayed with the EU bloc for majority of the conference. My proudest moment in MUNFW, was during my blocs presentation for our working paper on topic 2. During our Q&A, Russia tried to provoke our bloc extensively and I was the one to respond to these provocations. I handled them diplomatically while also upholding my country's stance on the issue. I was glad to see that I had matured as a delegate. If this same thing happened at NWMUN, I would not have been able to handle this nearly as well.

Model UN has made me grow in many ways as a person as well. I'm not very good with people. During school I focus on my work and don't talk to people in my class often. I am very introverted and quiet. I only have a few friends. I had trouble making friends with my teammates and largely felt like I was just there to them. None of this is their fault, however, I'm a difficult person. Though after this semester, I do feel closer to many of them, even if we are not friends. In Portland, I felt helplessly alone in social situations. Of course I did go out and talk with my teammates, but it felt wrong. It felt as if I was there because I had to be there, because I couldn't go out alone, not because they wanted me there. On the last day, my committee finished voting and debate before the session was over so our dais gave us an hour free time to do anything. I remember that everyone else was talking to other delegates, exchanging social media, and generally making friends. I did none of that, not because I didn't want to, but because no one really liked me enough to do that, because I didn't know any of them well enough. I remember sitting in between two people that became friends and they were talking to each other while I was in between them, not even acknowledging I was there. They talked to each other as if I wasn't sitting there, ignoring my existence, or having the decency to move or ask me to move. It was rude and made me feel invisible. Of course, I left on my own after a minute, but I felt like a failure. I've always had trouble getting close to others and this just highlighted to me how alone I was despite my best efforts to make friends. Thankfully, MUNFW was a way different experience. I made really good friends with the delegates in my bloc. We had similar interests as people, talked a lot, and I still message them on social media now. Model UN helped me grow a lot. While I started off as inept with strangers, it gave me the opportunity to grow and connect with people I never would've met if I weren't in this class. I'm grateful to this program as it has given me the opportunity to travel (I had actually never been on a plane previous to this class), to learn, and to connect with others. If not for this class, I would still be someone who is very unaware of what the world was like outside of my own bubble. Now I have gained perspective and can continue growing into the best person I can be and for that I am forever grateful.

# **Reflection Paper**

This is the third Model UN I had done and without a doubt it has been a really amazing each one of them. I have seen how I have overcome some insecurity and gain more confidence for myself that I'm capable of achieving greatness. Been part of Model UN has provided me so many tools in leadership, diplomacy, and delegation. The trip to Portland was different from the one in San Francisco. This conference also has shown me that I'm really passionate about this type of work and hopefully I will end working there one day. Also, the conference in SF at the end sends Dr. Grove an invitation to go and be part of the conference in Utah which I apply and have the opportunity of attending and see how the real world deals with some issues that are tackling our daily life.

Portland conference was different from the one in Seattle; for starters, I didn't feel like a newbie and lost about the structure of the conference. I felt like I knew what was supposed to happen. However, I ended up being in a new committee that was reviewing three countries and focusing on promoting suggestions to tackle those issues and then talk to the delegate and see if it will be accepted friendly or not. This whole committee was more about negotiation and gather together as one whole group to make sure the delegate member accepted more suggestions and also be sure that every concern was in the resolutions. On this conference, I felt confident in giving the new students guidance through the event and make sure they felt confident and without any hesitation as I did the first conference. On the other hand, MUNFW was an amazing experience for several reasons. Having the opportunity to meet and interact people who dedicate their lives to work in the United Nations and listen to what they have to go through the day and how the real delegations have to go through a normal day. It really helps me see all the work that we do through those weekend people do it in daily life. I had the situation where the European bloc decided to start the working on their own without even trying to talk to other developing countries and I had to find a way of facilitating the conversation with them in order to see what were the goals they were trying to aim. In addition to that, I also needed to work on my delegation with nations that were trying to create a little tension between groups, so I noticed that my ability to open dialogue and be the mediator for both countries.

One of the most exhilarating feelings in the MUNFW conference was obtaining two diplomas (without bragging), but I felt so empowered by obtaining that because it showed me that I'm capable of achieving more than I tend to believe and people see that in me. Sometimes I lack self-esteem and I stop pushing myself because I fear of not explaining myself correctly and then just stop participating. However by getting the diploma of best diplomacy made me realized that I have the knowledge of the topic and I really enjoy participating in these events. I have always seen myself working in the United Nations and working towards topics that I'm really passionate about. I'm also proud that this diploma was given by groups because it means that all my other classmates give the best and we accomplished something that demonstrates our commitment even if the days were so long and it becomes really exhausted. Furthermore, I'm so happy that Channel Island did so well on SF and Portland, and I was really happy to see my other classmate been awarded.

If there's anything I could want to improve for next time will be to improve my writing position paper and printing more information before the session and really don't be

out of guard. Also, the SF committee was different because there were rebuttal questions and not all the time I was ready to ask or respond to questions. This new method did intimidate me a little because I was always in fear that people will ask something that I was not aware of or not knowing how to answer, and by seeing other people respond so properly did intimidate me which cause that I was not as much in the speaking list compared to Portland where I was more self-confident on standing up and keep my name in the speaker list.

I think every conference is different, but it has helped me to continue growing and becoming more confident in myself and showing me that I'm capable of achieving greater things and stop being afraid or insecure about myself and never let myself try something because of it. I also think that I need to improve in always giving my 100% even the last day even if I'm really tired the last push is the most important to make sure the resolutions are working smoothly and that things that your country stand for are written in the paper so it doesn't create any conflicts in the middle of the negotiation.

Lastly, I love this experience because I really enjoy having amazing friends at the end of these events where I know we can count on each other and also support one another to achieve a good performance. Each of us keeps pushing us forward and sending positive vibes to making sure everything works perfectly. This experience wouldn't be possible if we didn't have amazing professors who are truly advocating for the students and continuously help us to achieve our best performance and making sure we are prepared and without any questions during the event. I'm looking forward to participating in Model UN next semester and see how much I can keep growing and improving even more by feeling 100% sure and confident about what I'm doing. Professor Christopher Scholl

Professor Andrea Grove

POLS 427

5/8/2019

# **Reflection Paper**

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

In this particular class, I learned that my decisions as a delegate are effective in the country's interests. Being able to make decisions, being a leader, definitely adds a different excitement to every conference, and really taught me how to negotiate diplomatically within the country I was representing. As the authorized person on behalf of the country I was standing for, I had the authority to make the most decisive decisions. I was able to sign the necessary agreements, as well as solve problems with the committees I have chosen to help me. In class presentations and writing position papers showed me how to read a large number of articles, and documents, and in this process, I had to study a large number of sources to draw, and use the information that I needed to explain my arguments. This gave me the opportunity to expand my knowledge about the work the United Nations is doing on a daily basis, goals for the future, and the social arena.

As a Global Studies major, I have learned to appreciate the United Nation, and its origins. There are lot of important things I learned in the Model United Nation conferences in terms of information, social skills, human relations, teamwork (alliance building), persuasion, lobbying skills, and most importantly, complex problem solving and negotiation. It was fascinating to see how globalization brought countries together to solve the global problems that are affecting different states individually. I think that it was a very valuable experience to learn how to negotiate in different ways, and see different discussion skills in class; then apply those skills to our conferences. This helped me with leadership skills in the conferences when we needed to gather everybody, especially the allies, making sure that everybody has the right to speak, and will sign the resolution paper, showing our efforts as a team.

Participating in the Model United Nations conferences, I learned the different stages of the committee. First of all, I learned that the conference does not work as a whole, the committees are divided into different conglomerates, and each committee has a separate issue, and has to prepare a separate resolution paper. The resolution paper is the paper created by the each committee. If this paper is voted, and not accepted by the whole committee, another resolution paper is created or the committee falls (cannot be terminated). In order to ensure the flow in the committee, usually 2-3 (the size of the committee may vary depending on the degree of difficulty of the topic discussed), the chairperson serves, and these people are experienced people who are tasked to prevent the chaos in the committee, and conferences.

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

I was able to really enhance my negotiating skills, involving myself in the resolutions, as well as the speaker list for both conferences. In Portland, I was able to demonstrate the knowledge for my country, and I had a easier time to research Human Rights Council (HRC). I was able to understand my committee, however I would focus on improving how to write resolution papers. I think I delivered the speeches on point each time I was on the speakers list. I am proud that I was able to catch up with the agenda, and follow up with my allies as well as other countries. The MUNFW in San Francisco, I was able to find my allies, and come into resolution creating a bigger group of people. I think my communication, and negotiation skills were beyond what I expected, and were greatly improved due to my participation in both conferences. I am very happy that I was able to turn my position paper the way I like to deliver. I put a lot of time studying, researching, and making sure everything flows together. I think my biggest challenge was I had so much information about Denmark, that I wanted to mention everything possible, and it just was not feasible. In the conferences, I was able to represent, and follow my country's interest(s) considering my committees role. Being able to work with people, and talk about our different perspectives, we were able to come to great points, with long hours of working over the resolutions.

### 3- What could you have done better at the Portland conference? How about at MUNFW?

As a delegate of Qatar, I did have strong emotions about Yemen's civil war, and human rights violations. I would change the conversation I had with the delegate of Saudi Arabia, and a few African states. It was hard for me to come to an agreement, and negotiate because of the delegate of Saudi Arabia did not want to implement some of the resolutions for human rights violations. In MUNFW, it was very hard for me to keep up after we finished our resolutions. This time we had to spend about three or four hours of working specifically on punctuation, and grammar. Personally, punctuation and grammar is one of my weakness, English being my second language. I did not let that belittle my spirit, and held my weight throughout everything. I felt a little bit off for a while, and felt anxious that I might be missing something very important for my country's interest. However, I was able to chat with Sweden, and Finland to see if we were all on the same page. Overall, I think I could of done better with reanalyzing resolutions, and making different arguments about other issues my country.

4- What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

I learned a lot of stuff about new countries and I became more educated on several topics regarding human rights, displaced communities and stateless people. I became aware about current global issues which helped me become more social, and humanistic. Also, after all public speaking became an easy task for me, I had to talk in front of hundreds of people during the conferences. Now, I feel more confident giving speeches and presentations in front of many people, and I think this will be a part of who I am.

### Model United Nations Reflection

05/01/2019

Being a delegate at the model UN has been an extremely rewarding educational experience that allowed me to be involved at my university and meet other like minded students with a passion for international relations and debate. When I was initially chosen to be apart of the Model UN team at Channel Islands, I felt very unsure of what I had signed up for but I didn't give it much thought other than being both glad I was accepted into an university organization and annoyed I was giving up my Friday for 10 weeks. However after a few meetings with our other members, I realized that this was going to be an invaluable experience and an opportunity to progress my character and skills. Although I didn't know anything about how things worked, the veteran students in class were extremely helpful in explaining the delegating processes at model UN. However nothing can quite prepare you for something like model UN except being in the midst of it, whether you know what's going on or not. Initially, I was one of those that did not know what was going on. However intimidated I was initially, I decided that I would not take a passive role in delegating and I would try to take these weekends I had looked forward to as a chance to evolve as a student.

The Portland conference was something I had been looking forward to since I learned I was apart of the group. As my first MUN conference, I took my time in examining the order and seriousness of everyone involved and I took special note of the more experienced delegates and how they treated the dais and each other. This slow start helped me a lot in understanding the process is and where my place as Angola could fit into. Personally, I can learn more from experience and practice than a lecture or reading a huge Model UN manual. I'm especially proud

of myself for taking the first day of Portland in stride and attempting to be alert and learn from the example of my peers. By day two I had caught on to the whole process of negotiating and was prepared to lead coalitions towards country stability. I think besides being very observant of how the processes worked the first day, the thing I'm most proud of at Portland was my ability to lead discussion between countries as well as delegating jobs to other countries so that we could work quickly in creating policy papers.

San Francisco definitely proved to be a monster of its own proportions. Unlike Portland, MUNFW was far larger of a conference meaning that there was more experienced students and delegations who were motivated by different forces. For instance, at MUNFW many schools told me that their class was extremely difficult and if they didn't win an award at the end of it all, their grades could never reach past a B. Although likely motivating, this lead to many in my committee being steam rolled and stifled by those with louder voices. I think something I can specifically be proud of in San Francisco was my ability to still hold my own and become a power player in the rooms dynamics. This happened not necessarily because I spoke often but because I was able to use those who did speak frequently to my policy's advantage. Finding people who can support your resolutions and advocate for them is a great example of utilizing diplomacy to achieve progress.

I think this concept of people appropriately using their talents where they are most efficient speaks volumes to international relations. Countries are unequally weighted by resources, population, finances, military, and other meters of judgement but where there is weaknesses there are strengths too.

The best part of being involved in this semester's Model UN was not the trip to places I've never been before, or even the new relationships I formed. Even though these were huge rewards of the overall experience, the best part of Model UN was being given the chance to excel at something I didn't think I could do. I used to do debate and mock trial and I absolutely loved being a leader and being in that professional setting, but that was years ago and I never thought I could find that version of me again. However when I left Portland I felt proud and like I had succeeded at something I knew I could do but I forgot was possible. If Model UN has taught me anything it is that I am capable of being a professional and I am capable of working with others.

I think one of the most fascinating parts of the Model UN conferences are examining those in your room day after day and watching everyone find their niche and find their most efficient place in negotiations. For example, I knew that I exceeded at writing the actual individual resolutions, using academic speech, and properly formatting papers. Because I knew I was not the strongest voice in the room, I quickly realized I needed to also be good at finding people to advocate for my papers. This strategy not only allowed me to utilize the stronger speakers in the room, but it gave those speakers something to advocate for when they were not as strong at drafting papers. I realized at MUNFW that every person has a unique style of delegating and in using other people's strengths to supplement your weaknesses can benefit everyone, especially those people in crisis whom you're working to help. In the end the cooperation and negotiating led for everyone to prosper in the conference room.

One thing I loved most about the whole experience as a delegate is shared both their represented countries and their personal ethnic backgrounds. As a lover of culture and geography, to me this is the most underrated part about Model UN. Being able to come together from multiple schools and backgrounds and share our collective knowledge about culture is something that I've never previously experienced. Similarly, I think that this exchange of

knowledge about how different areas of the world works have solidified my feelings towards being Global Studies major. I've realized that I love language and the differences in humans.

Similarly, because of the both times I was in the eponymous council, I learned have a passion for human rights. Maybe the world isn't perfect and one individual can't fix that. But if I can use even the smallest actions to make life better for those who endure systemic suffering in other countries, that's a noble goal. There is no magic international machine that spins solutions to the world's issues, but there is individual people who have a will to make the world a better place for those who are suffering. Similarly, I think model UN has taught me a lot about the options for my future and the sectors of the workforce that I find interest. I've always been somewhat a jack of all trades, finding interest in a multitude of topics because I didn't want to limit myself to one corner of knowledge. For example, I couldn't even pick a major until my junior year of college but now that I have I've seen how direction and exploring one area of study into its own depths can only broaden your skill set, not hinder it. My experience at Model UN has been one of revelations and development of my love for geography, travel, diplomacy, and international work.

Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

POLS 427

05 May 2019

#### Model UN Reflection Paper

Model UN has provided me with a space to grow and sharpen my skills as a student, as an aspiring global citizen, and as a potential future public servant. Though I think I probably spent at least 80% of the class feeling anxious and panicked about the public speaking aspect (but that is definitely more about who I am as a person than the nature of the course), having attended two conferences, I can safely say that I am walking away from this semester feeling empowered and better educated because of Model UN. Being a part of Model UN has allowed me to learn many new things about policy, the world, and myself; it has also given me something to be proud of this past semester, as well as something to reflect upon as a student.

To give credit where credit is due, I think that the primary reason I was able to learn so much through Model UN is because the professors really emphasize that the process and conferences really are about learning. I can say with ease that I learned so much this semester, particularly about the countries I got to act as, about major issues impacting the world, as well as about the UN and international relations-related processes as a whole. In the context of the Global Studies major, and also just generally seeking to be a global citizen, I think understanding the UN and the work of the UN is incredibly important. Though I have always had a general idea of how the UN operates, because of Model UN, I have been able to understand the processes and also the range of work done by the UN significantly better. This has proven useful in my other classes, particularly when the notion of global solutions is brought up; I have been able to speak on issues and policy that I have learned about through Model UN including environmental topics such as deforestation and ocean acidification, as well as human rights issues related to gender and voting rights.

Beyond the knowledge I attained through research, reading, and interacting with other delegates at conferences, I was also able to learn about diplomacy and improve my speaking and negotiating skills. I have always known the importance of both diplomacy and people skills in working with others, but by attending both conferences, I was able to see how truly critical it is, especially in terms of basic levels of interpersonal communication. Remaining diplomatic at all times and masking any frustration was definitely something I had to learn to do very and well very quickly, particularly in terms of controlling facial expressions and ensuring that my tone of voice never came off as aggressive. Furthermore, both conferences were good places to practice the skill of listening to understand instead of listening to reply; I think in terms of interpersonal communication, this was probably the most valuable thing I was able to build upon. Regarding negotiating in specific, I feel that I learned a lot about not only the importance of word choice, but also how difficult it can be. I also learned that though collaborating with everyone may not be easy, it is certainly necessary.

At each conference, though I might have started out somewhat shakily – my nerves completely exposing me during roll call – I can say that I walked away with more confidence, and – thankfully – things to be proud of. As far as the Portland conference goes, I was firstly really proud of the fact that I actually got on the speakers list and spoke multiple times; this was somewhat of a big deal to me as someone who is really not a fan of public speaking. I was also proud of the fact that all of the resolutions I worked on were adopted with acclamation. Perhaps most of all, however, I was proud of how my position paper turned out, and the fact that I was actually more prepared than I gave myself credit for; I ended up being able to follow along with all of the processes, and beyond that, was aware of many UN bodies and programs that were in place. This meant that I was able to contribute a lot in terms of the research aspect of drafting. As far as MUNFW went, I have to say firstly that I am proud of the fact that I maintained my composure, even if it was a little difficult at times; I was sick for all of Saturday and was honestly somewhat irritable, but was able to stay on task, in character, and both diplomatic and patient. Above all else though, I am probably most proud of the fact that I, as Tanzania, was able to partner up with the other African nations, and as an entire bloc ensure that our countries' needs were heard and met in resolution writing. Strategically, binding together ended up working well; it also ended up being really fun.

Though I am fairly happy with how I did at both conferences, I definitely believe there was – and always is – room for improvement. At the Portland conference, I definitely could have come out swinging harder a little sooner. Because I wanted to be sure I knew what I was doing, I kind of sat back – in terms of procedure and speaking – until I could observe and better understand how Model UN works. Though I did contribute quite a bit to resolution language, I do think I could have been quicker with supplying clauses – maybe had I familiarized myself a bit better with the clause list and the general structure of resolutions prior to the conference, this would have come more quickly to me. Regardless, it eventually came together, and I do think it still turned out all right in the end. At MUNFW, I could have done better when it came to taking the lead in terms of resolution writing, and also perhaps trying to combine the resolutions. For the first topic, I (along with some of the other African nations) was trying to have the needs of my country addressed in each working paper; looking back, I probably could have instead taken the lead in drafting my own, or otherwise trying to tie the other resolutions together as they really, in my opinion, were not too different. That was a lesson I learned fairly quickly, and carried into the following topics; it is something I will definitely bear in mind next semester.

In learning about both the UN and the world as a whole, I was also able to learn a bit about myself. Once again, to give credit where credit is due, I think this was made possible because the professors emphasize learning as the primary objective of the course. But anyway, perhaps the biggest thing I learned about myself is that I really, really love research; I think searching for information and reading about how things are done in other places is a lot of fun. I also learned that I really do have quite a bit of interest in policy as a whole, and think that this is what I would like to work on in the long run. This was a really valuable lesson for me; I think policy is something I have had interest in for a while, but was really able to affirm through all of the research and engagement. Lastly, I learned that though I really do not like public speaking, I am not as bad as I chalk myself up to be.

My experiences with Model UN have honestly been invaluable – from researching other countries in depth and proposing solutions on their behalf, to hearing actual UN staffers speak on their work – I have honestly learned so much. Looking back, this was an incredibly educational experience, unlike anything I have ever done; I think I ended up enjoying it more than I initially anticipated I would. Overall, Model UN has been a really positive experience. Though the resolutions and solutions discussed and proposed in session may not actually be real, it has been really inspiring to see like-minded people come together to discuss and attempt to remedy some of the world's most pressing issues. If anything, this experience has served as motivation to actually get up, go out, and tackle these problems in the real world.

### **Reflection Paper**

1. Having now participated in three very different Model UN conferences, I have learned that international negotiations and diplomacy is a complicated subject that cannot always be resolved peacefully and rationally. Each delegate and representative of their state is different in their own right and have very different priorities compared to the other representatives in the room. Some delegates participate to just be involved in extracurricular activities, some participate to gain experience in international diplomacy, some participate because they are aiming to pursue a career in the United Nations or other IGO's, and others participate to "win." Regardless of the delegates motives to participate in the conference, you must interact with them all the same if you wish to truly the embody the spirit of the MUN, which is to foster peace and promote global cooperation. Throughout the three conferences I have participated in, I have had a very different experience with many different delegates. I often found myself becoming frustrated at delegates who would not practice the essence of MUN and would negotiate with alternative motives. I would quickly remind myself that not every delegate shares the same attitude, and that difficult delegates should not compromise my attitude and motives for the conference. It motivated me to stay true to my morals and keep trying my best to foster peaceful and multilateral negotiations. Although I was not always successful with this, it did not stop me from trying, and more often than not I accomplished my goal.

- 2. At NWMUN Portland, I was most proud of my committee's collaboration and efforts toward collective action. In NWMUN Seattle, I found myself to more of a social delegate. A delegate who engages in active negotiations between states and blocks, and tries to find the most cohesive solution possible. In NWMUN Portland, I was fortunate enough to have the opportunity to represent the nation of Norway, who are often seen as peacekeepers in the United Nations. My goal entering the conference was to embody the spirit of Norway in the real United Nations and foster peace and cooperation in the GA at MUN. Fortunately, my committee was filled with like-minded individuals, and I was able to facilitate cohesive negotiations between states and blocks. My committee truly reflected the mission of MUN and were very appreciative of my efforts toward fostering international cooperation. MUNFW San Francisco, on the other hand, was the complete opposite of NWMUN Portland. From the beginning of the MUNFW San Francisco conference, I could tell that the attitude in the room was very hostile, and multiple delegates had selfish motives when negotiating resolutions. Throughout the conference, I had multiple confrontations with delegates who approached me in a hostile manner. Although my committee in MUNFW did not reflect the essence of MUN, I did not let them corrupt my spirit. I am most proud that I kept my composure and continued to attempt peaceful and cooperative negotiations, even though my efforts were met with little success. Every time I was confronted, I stayed calm, stayed professional, and responded in a way that accurately represented my own morals, my states, and the CSUCI mission.
- Although I am very proud of my performance and contributions to my committee in MUN, I believe there is always room for self-improvement. In NWMUN Portland, I was

successful at negotiating language, operative clauses, and mergers between papers, but I could have been more involved in the actual creation of these documents. In the early stages of our blocks working paper, I had created two preambulatory and operative clauses for our paper. When I returned to read over the document after all the mergers and edits had been finished, I saw that one of my operative clauses had been completely removed from the document, and the other was so different from my original wording that it was almost unrecognizable. I choose against making a scene and let the edits on my contributions stand because I did not want to cause animosity in the body, especially since all the delegates had worked so hard throughout the conference to find a cohesive solution to the issues at hand. I realize that I could have been more involved in the writing process of the paper throughout the conference and made sure that my contributions were not only kept in but also respected by the other delegates, as I had respected there's. MUNFW San Francisco was once again a very different experience from NWMUN Portland. In MUNFW I had unfortunately missed the first two unmoderated sessions for our first topic due to my fractured finger. When I returned, the body had already separated into two working blocks, and I was left on the outside. My ideas and efforts to contribute were dismissed by both blocks and I became very discouraged. After this, I became a bystander in the body for topic one. Although the conference started on a sour note, I did not let this stop me from participating in the conference as a whole, and used it as motivation to improve my performance for topic two and three. When reflecting on what I could have done better, I realize that I shouldn't have waited until the next topic to regain my confidence. I should have kept trying to

become involved in the first topic and not let the hostile attitude and confrontation affect my ability to perform in the first topic.

4. Spring 2019 MUN helped reaffirm a lesson that I often forget. MUN always helps to remind me that I am stronger and more durable than I give myself credit for. As fun and exciting as the MUN conferences are, they always happen to fall on very busy and stressful weeks for me. No matter how fatigued, stressed, or overloaded I am, I have never let it affect my performance in the conference, and have always given my all to uphold the MUN values and represent CSUCI in the best way possible. Even when I was personally and aggressively confronted at MUNFW San Francisco, I kept my calm, did not lose my nerve, and responded in the most diplomatic way possible. I have always been a strong believer in positive affirmations and how positivity can help in even the most stressful of times. MUN has repeatedly helped reaffirm that I strong-willed, and anything I put my mind to, I can achieve. MUNFW San Francisco tested my patience, resolve, and character more than it has ever been tested before, and even though there were plenty of hardships throughout the conference, I was still able to stay true to myself and focus on the positives instead of the negatives. I met so many amazing people during MUNFW, shared so many amazing experiences, and can truthfully say that MUNFW San Francisco was the most fun and rewarding MUN conference I have attended. I used MUNFW San Francisco to re-teach myself that no matter how much adversity I face, I will never let my character be broken, and will always be the positive and respectable person I pride myself to be.

## **Reflection Paper**

The core principles of the United Nations are Diplomacy. It is this same concept that I feel was the largest take away I had from the course. Last semester majority of the learning was just that learning. How to research, explain myself adequately, and write in a way much different from what has become the norm for me. This semester I could really dive into the character of the country more and not have to steep myself in the regiment of what is the right decorum etc. This allowed me to really hone my skills beyond what had proceeded and focus on the social aspect of what is Model United Nations.

Portland was the defining moment for me in terms of diplomacy for multiple reasons. The first and a more obvious was that Norway plays a very diplomatic role in the UN as it has progressed on issues farther than its counterparts. Playing Norway really drove home the whole stay in character and as a state under review it was only amplified. I really enjoyed being the state under review as I feel it gave a challenge to me which is something I am always ready for which brings me to addressing what I am most proud of at the Portland conference.

I was honestly surprised and honored when I was asked to be a head delegate and the state under review. Both posed interesting challenges which I am happy to say I completed with vigor. The most daunting thing about being the state under review was the seniority of the position or at least the perceived seniority. What I mean by this is that the other two state under review were seasoned delegates whereas I had only successfully completed one conference and would consider myself far from a veteran.

Head delegate posed much of the same issues, being every delegate in the room was leaps and bounds ahead of me in terms of experience. I had to keep reminding myself that I am good enough to roll with the best of them and I do know some things, just have to capitalize on what I do and be eager to learn. All in all, I was proud of how I performed at Portland given I was in my opinion an odd ball compared to the other delegates.

Although I was proud of my accomplishments at Portland as with anything I could improve. Research was a big thing I could have improved on and to be honest this is a very perfectionist part of me because I did have substantive research, however when someone is asking you on what strides your country has made since a mass shooting that took place in the past decade and I was clueless then yes more could have been done. Also, I would critique myself on time management. I would get caught up in an issue and want to solve it to the core but at the expense of other issues and delegates. I feel this is a good quality to have in the right dosage and mine was off. At MUNFW this was remedied however.

San Francisco was a whole different beast. By this point I had felt comfortable with how conferences proceed even though I did have to learn the different language for addressing topics. I felt on the whole the conference went easier than Portland or Seattle but that's not to say it was easier. The biggest caveat that I had with the conference or rather particular delegates was portions of papers were written outside of meeting times. At the beginning of the conference this wasn't as much of an issue as I powered through to get my ideals of my country heard but as the conference continued I became more distressed and stopped trying as hard as I should have. The chair only exacerbated this problem by smiling on working during breaks. I should have addressed the issue head on either with the chair, the delegates or both.

In MUNFW I'm proud of how inventive I was. As I expressed above, it was hard to get my say on the papers, so financing my position as a block became more useful compared to previous conferences where I represented more powerhouse countries. By forming alliances within my region and parlaying them into greater powers I could get my view generally expressed. This did not mean however that my ideal was specifically expressed and I feel that it was a cop out that I should have tried harder to avoid.

All major growth in my life has really come down to either making critical decisions and trying things outside my comfort zone. When I was first approached with the opportunity to join Model UN I was very hesitant. First it was outside my comfort zone as any introvert I am sure would also ascribe. Public speaking is an Achilles heel for most and I would not consider myself to be an exception. I was faced with a critical decision as I knew I would grow from the experience and ultimately that is what gave me the drive to apply.

One particular experience I remember as defining during the Portland conference. It was when I had just very clearly given a speech to the body on my countries stance. Shortly after I was approached by several delegates about the topic whereas they expressed the desire that was what I had just stated would be a moot point with me. It was the out of body experience where one has to take a deep breath and compose oneself before answering. It took all of my strength which was waning as this was the end of the conference to not tell these people off. The words of Doctor Grove came to me, "Ya gotta fake it till you make it." and that is exactly what I did. I faked that I cared what they had to say and exercised the diplomatic ties that I had been honing for so long. In all honesty, I would not change the experiences I had in Model UN for anything. I grew as a person because I was able to make great friends that stretched my understanding of academic and social issues. My understanding of the United Nations grew but so did my knowledge of the world and in general the personalities of each state. This helped me to understand that things I had learned were relevant only leading to greater confidence. I know my limits now and also that those are not set. I am by far a changed individual for the better. POLS 427

Dr. Grove

8 May 2019

# **Class Summary**

When I first started this semester, I had fairly basic knowledge on the role and scope of the United Nations, but was not very particular on the specific practices and methods of the UN body. Throughout the course of this semester, I gained such a new and interesting perspectives on the goals of the United Nations, and had the amazing opportunities to learn more about the UN than I previously thought possible. Over the course of both conferences, I feel I have gained so many important skills and have been deeply inspired to consider a future working in conjunction with the UN. I was very unsure if I was going to like this course, especially the conferences, but the experiences and knowledge I have gained has been so supremely important to me.

At the beginning of the Portland conference I was extremely overwhelmed and ended up feeling awful at the end of the day. The procedure and gravity of what we were doing all hit at once and I felt a little thrown into the deep end, which I was totally okay with. I had ended up making the speakers list all three days of the conference, and the GA was able to pass three resolutions through acclimation in regards to climate change. It took two and a half of our three days to draft and pass those resolutions. I was a signatory on one, and was able to be a sponsor on another one of them, which talked about the need for developed countries to aid developing nations in education and infrastructural developments in regards to climate change, especially in meeting SDGS and educating the public. By the end of the conference, I had a pretty firm grasp on the operation of the GA and realized my strength in talking and getting together with people

during unmoderated caucus and drafting resolutions, than going on the speakers list five times during session. On the last day, a few nations and myself were able to send in a two clause resolution addressing the human rights violations against the Palestinian people.

The San Francisco conference was extremely long and was extremely painful as a member of the GA. Besides the fact that most of the people were impossible to work with and many delegates did not want to follow their own national sovereignty, I tried to thrive where I was. I had managed to get onto the speakers list once in the conference, but I was constantly busy and working in unmoderated caucus. I was working primarily with my Latin bloc, as it was the easiest group of people to work with, and our countries all held similar views to one another. I had worked on and was a sponsor on a resolution for both of our topics, For our surprise topic for the third day, I spent much of unmoderated caucus working on combining and condensing our one draft resolution to make it a consensus document. I made sure that every document I was working on included Chile's views, but was also cognizant of the needs of other nations.

One of the hardest things for me to adjust to was the Parliamentary procedure; remembering all of the p's was such a difference from the way the Portland conference operated, and it took the first day for me to remember just the basic procedural codes. Practicing the procedure before we left for the conference definitely aided in that, as I would have been completely lost. I always felt prepared when I entered the conferences, and while a bit nervous both times, easily understood the way they operated and felt comfortable in my surroundings. Something else I struggled with that I could definitely improve would be to open myself up more to getting on the speakers list, and getting over my fear of public speaking.

This class has been so inspiring to me and the path I want to take in my own life, I was very inspired by the keynote speaker from San Francisco. The fact that he became an attorney and was able to work through the United Nations to help people was absolutely motivating for me. I've been influenced to use my future law degree to work with the UN, and be able to travel and help people across the globe. To be able to have this opportunity has been so eye-opening and I am very glad to be given the opportunity to take this class again next semester.