



Proposal # 694 and 735

## ***Instructionally Related Activities Report Form***

SPONSOR: ANDREA GROVE AND CHRIS SCHOLL

DEPARTMENT: POLS

ACTIVITY TITLE: MODEL UN

DATE (S) OF ACTIVITY: 19-22 Nov 2015; 11-14 FEB 2016; 31 MARCH-APRIL 2: AND 15-19 APRIL

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

### **A. ADDRESS THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:**

- (1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;
  - (2) HOW DID THE ACTIVITY RELATE TO A COURSE(S) AND/OR LEARNING OBJECTIVES?
  - (3) WHAT DO YOU SEE AS THE STRENGTHS OF THE ACTIVITY?
  - (4) WHAT WOULD YOU SAY ARE/WERE THE ACTIVITY'S WEAKNESSES?
  - (5) HOW WOULD YOU IMPROVE THIS ACTIVITY FOR NEXT TIME?
  - (6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?
  - (7) WHAT ARE STUDENT RESPONSES TO THE ACTIVITY? ATTACH STUDENT EVALUATIONS OR ASSESSMENTS (IN ACCORDANCE WITH FERPA RESTRICTIONS YOU MUST REMOVE ALL PERSONALLY IDENTIFIABLE STUDENT INFORMATION)
  - 8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.
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### **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 This for IRA Committee reference only and will not be published on the IRA website.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.

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### **C.IMAGES FROM ACTIVITY:**



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

**(1) PROVIDE A DESCRIPTION OF THE ACTIVITY;**

WE ATTENDED 4 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. THREE WERE PAID FOR BY #694 AND ONE BY #735 (WESTMUN).

**(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 IS SHORT; OTHER THAN THAT, NOT MANY WEAKNESSES.

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

USUALLY I MIGHT SAY WE HAVE TO PUSH SOME STUDENTS TO BE BETTER PREPARED, BUT THIS SEMESTER THE STUDENTS WERE DEDICATED, HARDWORKING. IT REALLY SHOWED—WE WON MANY, MANY AWARDS!

**(6) WHAT DID YOU LEARN FROM THE PROCESS?**

I LEARNED THAT EVEN OUR WEAKER STUDENTS CAN BE MENTORED TO "STEP UP TO THE PLATE," BE PUSHED BEYOND THEIR COMFORT ZONE, AND WORK HARDER THAN THEY EVER EXPECTED TO.



ALSO, EVEN STUDENTS WHO HAVE DONE THIS A FEW TIMES ARE STILL LEARNING NEW THINGS. FINALLY, STUDENTS ARE BEING TAUGHT TO BE GOOD MENTORS.

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

8) GIVE A SUMMARY OF EXPENSES FOR THE ACTIVITY.

**WESTMUN (MARCH/APRIL—GRANT 735)**

REGISTRATION FEES \$2030  
ADVISOR MILEAGE \$56.35  
ADVISOR PER DIEM \$35  
HOTEL \$3082  
TOTAL \$5203.35

**NORTHWEST MUN –SEATTLE (NOVEMBER—GRANT 694)**

AIRFARE \$5189.60  
ROADRUNNER \$1550  
REGISTRATION FEES \$880  
BAGGAGE CHECK \$50  
ADVISOR PER DIEM \$400  
AIRPORT TRANSPORT SEATTLE \$108  
HOTEL \$3792  
TOTAL: 11,969.60

**NORTHWEST MUN-PORTLAND (FEBRUARY—GRANT 694)**

AIRFARE \$4559.40  
BAGGAGE CHECK \$50  
ROADRUNNER \$1638  
REGISTRATION FEES \$800  
ADVISOR PER DIEM \$200  
AIRPORT TRANSPORT PORTLAND \$102  
HOTEL \$2982.72  
TOTAL \$10,332.12

**MODEL UN OF THE FAR WEST (APRIL—GRANT 694)**

REGISTRATION FEES: \$1605  
HOTEL AND PARKING: \$4975.84  
ADVISORS PER DIEM: \$500  
ADVISOR MILEAGE: \$443.90  
Total: \$7538



California State  
University

**INSTRUCTIONALLY  
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**GRAND TOTAL:**

#735 \$5203.35 (APPROVED WAS \$5284)

#694 \$29,839.72 (APPROVED WAS \$32.717)



**Fall 2015**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Program and Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Academic Level</u></b>
Aspinwall, Daniel Mark	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Barrios, Maria Carmen	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Casarez, Karina Renee	Undergraduate - BA: Psychology	Junior
Forrester, James Edward	Undergraduate - BA: Sociology	Senior
Gomez, Nicholas William	Undergraduate - BA: History	Senior
Guardado I, Gabriela Beatriz	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Issa, Sami	Undergraduate - BA: History	Senior
McVicker, Elizabeth Ann	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Navarro, Juan Sebastian	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Phillippe, Shanel Jennifer	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Sophomore
Pino, Allison Kay	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Rodrigo, Shaini Tamara	Undergraduate - BA: Communication – Health Communication	Junior
Russett, Melissa Ann	Undergraduate - BS: Business	Junior
Senninger, Hannah Rose	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Tucker, Ashley Michele	Undergraduate - BA: History	Senior
Vad, Aaron Joseph	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior

**Spring 2016 Roster**

<b><u>Name</u></b>	<b><u>Program and Plan</u></b>	<b><u>Academic Level</u></b>
Aspinwall, Daniel Mark	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Barrios, Maria Carmen	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Junior
Bergh, Kelsey Nicole	Undergraduate - BA: Communication	Sophomore
Casarez, Karina Renee	Undergraduate - BA: Psychology	Senior
Forrester, James Edward	Undergraduate - BA: Sociology	Senior
Fuentes, Kimberly Alissa	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Gahbrielson I, Joseph Anthony	Undergraduate - BA: Global Studies	Senior
Gomez, Cassandra Marie	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Groom, Andrew Peter	Undergraduate - BA: Spanish	Junior
Guardado I, Gabriela Beatriz	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Herrera, Kayla Jane	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Sophomore
Navarro, Juan Sebastian	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Phillippe, Shanel Jennifer	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Sophomore
Pino, Allison Kay	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Senninger, Hannah Rose	Undergraduate - BA: Political Science	Senior
Tucker, Ashley Michele	Undergraduate - BA: History	Senior



## **FALL 2015 REFLECTION PAPERS**

### **Model UN Reflection – Fall 2015**

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

By participating in Model United Nations for multiple semesters I have increasingly recognized how much I have learned about the United Nations overall. When we first begin the class each semester, we are given an overview of the history of the UN and its various bodies but because the UN is such a huge organization, it is difficult to cover everything in a single semester. We are always learning about the organization whether it is from reviewing the system or viewing how the countries we represent that semester are active in the UN. By being a delegate for a number of different states, I have also had the opportunity to learn about countries that are often ignored by the public and that I had even ignored myself before joining Model UN. Now I find myself keeping up with the states I have represented and the states with delegates that have made an impression on me during conferences. I am increasingly seeing just how connected the international community is and how big the global dialogue is within the UN. At my first conference, I represented an island state in a committee that was discussing Syrian refugees. At the time I was sure that my state had nothing to add to the conversation as the issue did not directly relate to the country I represented but instead related to a different region. In my experience in Model UN however I am now able to see how states have a responsibility and desire to address the majority of issues as they are all dedicated to ultimately achieving the UN purpose of peace and security. This is especially clear when looking at how the global community reacts to achieve a global goal or to support a state during a crisis.

#### **2. What are you most proud of?**

One of the things that I am the most proud of in my experience this semester is that I took a bigger risk by joining a more intense committee than the ones I have been involved in before. Overall I am proud to see myself taking on the roles that I told myself I would never attempt during my first semester in Model UN. Model UN often requires you to simply jump into the experience and I am grateful that I had a team of classmates and advisors that helped me survive the fall. While I do feel that I could have overall done better in the conference I do recognize that I should be happy that I took a chance at all and had an experience I would have otherwise missed. When the date of my very first conference was approaching I remember being filled with dread and anxiety because I was so worried about how I would perform or if I would even be able to make it through a single conference at all. Now I am excited with every mock session and conference we participate in as my anxiety has now dialed down to a point where I have a good type of nerves because I care about working to the best of my abilities. I am also happy that I am beginning to acknowledge when I have done work that I should feel proud of rather than ultimately tearing myself down in the end. Model UN has given me the ability to have confidence in the quality of my work rather than continuously second-guessing myself and has even encouraged me to use my knowledge and experiences to help those who are just beginning their own Model UN journey.



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

When reflecting on these conferences I usually see myself following the same thought of how I could have prepared better in terms of gathering information and that still remains true today. When I was unable to find specific information about my country regarding a topic, I could have found similar scenarios and applied them where they best fit during the conference. At the same time though I think that I should also work on recognizing that it is acceptable to go into a conference with some uncertainty as this continues to be a learning experience both in terms of learning about international relations as well as in learning how to discuss and negotiate with others in general. By entering a Model UN conference with some uncertainty and an open mind, it is possible to flow more freely through negotiations rather than sticking only to your own ideas. This is a true concept with any team scenario as all ideas should be heard and considered to have real consensus like the consensus the United Nations works to achieve. With this idea of being okay with some uncertainty, I think I could have also not have become as frustrated as I did at the beginning of the conference when it seemed that everyone was better prepared than I was which set the general mood I had for the rest of the weekend. Rather than getting discouraged and unsure about the quality of work I was producing within the conference, I could have better partnered with those in my committee to find agreements that the state I represented could support.

### **4. What did this experience teach you about yourself?**

This experience taught me that no matter how many times I have done Model UN I will always have something new to learn either educationally or personally. This was my fourth semester in Model UN and I have noticed a difference not only in my performance at my very first conference but even in my performance at the conferences I participated in just last semester. This difference has occurred not only in terms of my skills at negotiating and speaking at conferences but also in my study skills when I research my countries and position papers. It has also taught me that I have a group of teammates that I can depend on to help me whether it is a personal matter or one relating to the conferences. Initially I thought I was accepted onto the Model UN team by accident and that I did not really belong on the team. Now I can see the place I have on this team and how we all have different roles in this fun and educational experience. Model UN has always taught me to work more with other people which was very different to the way I worked before when I preferred to work alone. Now I am finding myself able to achieve the perfect balance where I have become a better teammate while also becoming more independent.



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Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl  
Model United Nations, Fall 2015  
4 December 2015  
Fall 2015 Reflection Paper

Given that this is my fourth and now final reflection paper, I'll also take some time to reflect on my experiences, growth, and development throughout my two year tenure on the team. This was my second time participating in a Seattle conference and my experiences are completely different; additionally, this semester's conference was definitely overall a better experience from a conference standpoint. I was given the honor of being chosen to be the only Channel Islands delegate on the Security Council (the traditional one). This body of the United Nations behaves completely differently from and has widely different responsibilities from any other the other UN organs or bodies. Given that I had to participate in a completely new committee it required more research on my part to learn the new rules of the body and what our powers and responsibilities were.

The most important things that I learned revolve around the work that the Security Council does. My perceptions of the body prior to the conference were that the body was ineffective at getting things done, and this was largely due to the way that the council was depicted in the media. The way that the council is portrayed in traditional media makes the organization seem useless because the coverage of the council is largely focused on controversial issues where one of the Permanent Five members will veto the resolutions resulting in the failure of the resolution. This was the case a few years back when the council attempted to address the Syrian Civil War. My research leading up to the conference revealed to me that this was not always the case in the council. Sure on controversial issues a P5 member will veto something, but that makes up a small percentage of the resolutions that make their way to voting bloc. A significant portion of the resolutions that get voted on are adopted by unanimous vote. Additionally, the resolutions that are passed have a significant and lasting effect on the world or region in which they are implemented.

Additionally, I refined my negotiation and diplomacy skills due to the fact that I was in a much smaller committee and I had to deal with some rather difficult delegates from other schools. I had to learn to be much more tactful and learn when, where, and how to spend my political capital throughout the weekend due to the fact that the committee was so small. Dealing with delegates who were also not accurately representing their countries was particularly difficult





because I had to carefully teach them what their nation's policy was so that they would participate correctly.

There are a great deal of things that I am proud of for this conference that made it a great way to finish off my career on the team. First and foremost I am proud of my achievement of winning a position paper award for my preparation work for the conference. This was a very proud moment for me because I was being recognized for the work that I had done. For some of the schools attending the conference, their faculty advisors do the prep work for them which gives them an advantage toward winning the position paper awards. The award I received validate the hard work that I had put in to preparing for the conference. Additionally, I am proud of the work I did in committee throughout the various sessions. I had to work hard to protect the interests of my nation (Angola) in the council and combine it with what was best for the world. I spoke for developing nations as well as the African Continent to try and push the issues of development, education, and sustainability and the resolution I helped author that included these points passed without opposition.

Despite the Seattle conference being my sixth one that I've participated in there will always be ways in which I could improve. In particular, the biggest way I could have improved during the conference was in my time management for the conference. There were times when the committee got stagnant because some of the delegates were busy working on drafting resolutions. What I should have done during this time was either try to move the committee along to go faster on the topic so we could address further issues or begin brainstorming ideas and discussing the next topic so we could have accomplished more in our time.

Each and every time I participate in a conference I always discover new things about myself and each time I am surprised by what I learn. Every conference always teaches me that I have much more to learn about the world. Representing a country that I knew little about and in a committee that I had no experience working with cemented the fact that there is still so much in the realm of international relations that I still have left to learn. Additionally, for this particular conference, I did not plan on this being my last semester on the team. Other circumstances with my other obligations led me to the difficult decision to end my Model UN career a semester shy of when I had planned, and this taught me to appreciate things as they are happening and to savor the moment. This was my last conference and likely my last opportunity to visit Seattle for a while so I really took this trip seriously to go out on the absolute best foot that I possibly could. This conference taught me to appreciate my opportunities more and that I have the ability to really put my heart and soul into something beyond the level that I thought I could.

I am incredibly saddened to not be returning for my last semester of college due to the fact that my work obligations would conflict too much with my ability to participate in the conferences. However, my two years on the team have taught me so much about myself and developed me so much within my political science career. My beliefs and attitudes toward international relations have be challenged over and over and I have a completely new outlook on the way that the world operates on a political level. Prior to taking this class two years ago I would have never had the desire to leave the United States and experience other countries, but the appreciation for international relations and perspectives that I gained from the team led me to an opportunity to visit South Africa for two weeks and it transformed my life for the better. My experiences in Model UN will undoubtedly be the lasting highlights of my academic career at Channel Islands and have shaped me from a domestically focused political scientist to one that approaches issues



from a global perspective and I do not think I could have arrived at this place in my life any other way.

Most importantly, I could not have arrived where I did if it were not for my two amazing professors and mentors. Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl's passion for teaching and transforming their students' lives is one of the reasons I stuck around for so long. Their teaching and guidance made me who I am today and there is not possible way I could repay this. The best way I can imagine is to approach the world using the lessons that they have taught me and to share their lessons with as many people as I can. This power couple of CSU Channel Islands is why the Model UN team is as special as it is and why it is so successful. As long as they are the heart and soul behind the program, it will only continue to thrive and permanently, positively impact the lives of the students that participate on the Model UN team.

Grove/Scholl  
POLS 427 - Model UN  
4 December 2015  
Reflection Paper

I have made it very clear to my family and friends that being a political science major does not automatically mean that I going to be a politician. With that being said, I still believe that I am not a huge fan of domestic policy. However, international politics still continue to interest and inspire me. This experience was one of a kind and something that will really be a cornerstone of my political studies.

To make a list of the most important things that I have learned about by participating in the Model UN conference would be too hard. Words can merely scratch the surface of what this experience how shown me. Looking at the nuts and bolts of the conference: I really learned the value of international relations, diplomacy, negotiations. I originally thought that since everyone is just a student like me, there would be more "out-of-character" moments, but I learned how serious everyone was going to be the entire time. The biggest thing that I learned was about how important diplomacy is. Diplomacy is everything! I wish I could say that many times, because it is so true. Everything that we did within the General Assembly (GA) was all about diplomacy. Everything from getting others to understand and vote for my resolution, all the way to setting the agenda. How other states interacted with me really persuaded whether or not I would actually take what they saying was "important" or not. First impressions and international relations really make a huge difference. Fortunately, I was able to find my union of African nations and become a powerful source of votes. When I comes to negotiations, I learned how important it is to articulate your points very carefully. Otherwise, you will spend an entire 45 min caucus backpedaling. I also learned that sometimes it is easier to just ask people what they want to know and give them that so we don't waste each other's time. I found this to be extremely effective and a good negation strategy.

At the end of the day, I am extremely proud of myself. I didn't know how effective I was going to be just as an African nation with little to offer about our two topics within the GA. However, I was able to find my allies, organize them, and write an effective resolution that got support from "important" states such as Russia, France, the UK, Germany, Spain, Sweden, and



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many others. I'm proud that even though I went into this conference not knowing what to expect and planning to sit back and just go with the flow, that I was able to control the flow. Something that I am naturally good at, but surprised that I was able to rise above most of the other 120 GA delegates. I was also extremely proud of how I was able to really help write our final resolution. Going into the conference, I had the MUN app on my phone and I knew how to write a resolution, but I didn't know if I knew how to write a strong resolution or not. When it came down to game time, I was able to lead my union by having effect word choice with clear and concise points. This was something that I doubted that I would be really good at. That is why I am proud of this. Writing has never been my strong point so being able to help really made me feel useful.

Still I know that I could have done better at the conference. I wish that I didn't get as nervous every time I stood up and spoke. I had always prepared myself to speak, but I wish I had written stronger pieces to say. With that being said though, I would say that I wish I had raised my placard more from the beginning. I didn't really raise it until the last day, which in a way worked to my advantage, but I also wish that I had been a main player from the start. Yes, I very active with the African Union, but I wish the chair and director had seen me trying to be more engaged from the beginning. Finally, I wish that I had spent more time learning about what the other resolutions had to offer. I knew what the "Odd Block" had to offer (which was my alliance of three resolutions all ending in odd numbers), but the other 2 resolutions that did not pass I was very unfamiliar about. An educational opportunity is all I really missed out on by not knowing, but oh well.

Finally this experience taught me about myself. I have been very fortunate over my years attending Channel Islands to be able to attend many conferences. On top of that, I have spoken in front of 100s of people before on a wide variety of topics; some personal and some formal. I cannot say that this experience gave me a new skill. However, I can say that it certainly helped me in tuning my skills and allowing me to work on my speaking, presentation, and networking skills. Something that was very interesting to me was that growing up, I was always taught that there were two things that I should never talk about when meeting someone for the first time: religion and politics. Ironical, I was sent to catholic school and now in college I am a political science major. Going to this conference to talk about politics with other students my age was a very interesting a revealing situation. It did make me realize how committed to politics other people my age can be. They say young people don't care, but I beg to differ.

At the end of the day, this conference was an amazing experience. Not only was the city of Seattle beautiful, but it showed me how important one can be even when they think that they have no influence in the world. It is all about how you come off; fake it till you make it. That's what the world's motto seems to be because it works in every situation. One day I hope that I won't need to fake it and that I will just make it on my own. Thank you.

POLS 427  
Model UN  
**Reflection Paper**



I was worried that with only one conference this semester, I would be unable to truly grow as a “diplomat”. Seattle proved me wrong.

This conference was a challenge for me at first since I was new to the format of the post-2015 agenda. The research proved to be a little bit trickier since it was so deep in information needed but I felt really proud with my outcome policy paper. I also feel like I really learned to understand my topic since the document covered so many different topics ranging from health to climate change to global governance. I felt confident going into committee about the topic of the post-2015 agenda, which further gave me confidence about my own country's position in regards to the document.

This committee really taught me how important it is to be flexible, since I had to write a completely new document after barely learning how to write a different document the semester before. Although challenging, I enjoyed the challenge and I grew to love my topic. I am also grateful for the diverse experience because now I can take aspects that I learned from this committee's policy paper, such as research tips, to my future policy papers.

In committee session, I met a whole new load of challenges. Again, I learned to be flexible, realizing that the opening statement I had prepared was incorrect and realizing I was supposed to write four separate ones instead. Flexibility was also important when I realized I was second on the speakers list after only realizing my opening statement needed to be revised. I was able to take my one policy statement and present a (hopefully) steady opening statement in just a few minutes from the committee officially opening.

During committee, I also learned to be more confident, speaking for each different topic presented. Although my opening statements were written only a few minutes beforehand, I still felt confident and each time I went to talk, I tried to engage in the audience more and more. By the fourth time, I noticed all the butterflies were going away and I was no longer shaking between every word. There was also a sense of passion I felt during my speeches, where I realized I was no longer merely reading words from a page but was meaning every statement as if I really were representing the Republic of Angola. That feeling was very exciting for me and it made the weekend really enjoyable, where I felt like I was truly making an impact and that I could be successful with my position in that committee.

This committee also forced me to be really professional and diplomatic with students who may not have known their country's positions on a certain topic as well as they should have. There were many instances where, instead of completely correcting them, I would have to alter what my stance would have been and instead, be flexible enough to work around what they presented to me. This was very prominent when the whole African bloc refused to define climate change as a priority/goal. They refused to, at first, support anything that *mentioned* (or even hinted) at climate change and demanded that poverty be defined as the number one priority for the sustainable development goals. I was able to finally get them to realize that in doing so, they would never get an agreed document by the whole committee. In the end, they agreed on, instead of explicitly stating poverty as top priority, creating a goal on poverty that specifically met the needs for the African states and also, agreed on supporting a document that listed climate change as a goal.

I feel like in regards to negotiations, I learned more from this committee than last semester. For the second working paper, I was leading the African bloc and recommended the poverty goal in return for also including a climate change goal. When I realized there were so many people



working on one goal, I decided that I wanted to work on a separate goal, focusing on justice and human rights, recalling that Angola presently aims for a stronger government since corruption is highly presently there. I was able to also get the help from South Africa and a few of the other African states who were no longer working on the poverty goal. Together, we made our separate goal and in the end, the document was voted in with both the poverty and justice goals. I was the one with the computer and so I had a lot of control over what was being explicitly written. Therefore, alongside with leading the group, I had to really negotiate with each state working alongside me to create a goal that not only represented my countries position, but could also be accepted by the international community. There was a small portion of the committee where I also had to separately negotiate with the representative of Croatia, since he was opposed to including the rule of law into the document. After explaining him what the rule of law meant, and how states are better with it than without it, and also showing him the real UN post-2015 document (which lists rule of law as a target), he decided he was fine with it in the document and everything was adopted unanimously.

I also had to negotiate with Brazil and Portugal, whose suggested target in this goal focused on the rights of indigenous peoples. Not only was their target double the size of other targets, but they also specifically defined how this target would impact education. Although a great idea, their wording was very strong and some of their suggestions impeded on state sovereignty. For this reason, we were able to condense the target into something shorter, not so strong, but still called for rights and education based on indigenous populations.

This goal also made me flexible since I had many targets under my goal that the chairs felt were not targets, but instead, should be part of the main goal. This was in regards to my rule of law target. I was very confused since the real UN document listed rule of law as a target but I was being told that the rule of law made no sense (in my goal) as a target. Since the post-2015 agenda was technically not developed yet though, I took their advice and incorporated it into the goal (In my opinion, moving from merely a target to a goal is a positive thing!).

Negotiating was also very prominent in the 3<sup>rd</sup> working paper, where both Allie (Germany) and I led the Means and Implementation topic. In the end, we were able to create a document that covered nearly ten different topics, presented by different member states. Negotiation was key in this process, since Allie and I were in charge of what entered the document and therefore, had to hear what states wanted and work towards how to add it. Although very frustrating and at points, seemingly impossible, to get one collaborative document between all the states present, we were able to incorporate everyone's suggestions/input in wording they approved and ultimately received a unanimous vote on the document.

This specific document also taught me more of the behind-the-scenes editing/formatting process. When we had the document open to others on the google doc, points were being added by other states but in bullet point format. We were told to change from bullet points to paragraph format halfway through our committee. For this reason, Allie and I had to go through the whole document and edit it into the proper format. In addition, since the google doc was open, we hadn't fully been able to read EVERY section added to see if (1) it made sense and (2) if it was repeated or could be merged with another section. We also wanted to outline the document where similar topics were grouped together. In the end, we were able to read through every section, decide how to incorporate it into the document as a whole, and properly format it.



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I think I was most proud of the fact I led a portion of the document. Also, it was not only that I led just a portion, but my goal was also incorporated, and the fact that the African states agreed to create a poverty goal was because of my negotiations with them and other member states. I was really proud of the outcome Means and Implementations document because we worked so hard to filter it and edit it into a document that could be unanimously agreed upon by all member states. I was proud with how I was able to work with other states, such as Germany and the African bloc, toward many of my personal goals in the committee.

Personally, I still want to grow as a speaker. I personally feel more comfortable with a written statement in front of me, but I do try to engage in the audience throughout my speech. My personal issue though, is that in the beginning of the conferences (when everyone's a stranger) I get so nervous that I feel like I visually shake and stumble over my words (or talk fast). I did notice though, that by the last speech I presented, I was no longer shaky or nervous and I was more relaxed while speaking. This is a personal goal of mine to be as confident as I am during my last speech for my first speech and all others in between.

I noticed that for awards, it was not the individuals doing the behind-the-scenes work of writing the document and negotiating what will be written, but instead it was the individuals that are vocally loud and merely "round the people up". I was a little disappointed with this fact because I like to be the person doing the work and having control over the words, but this tends to be more of a quiet and focused task. Maybe for future conferences, I can push to be that other diplomat, and try to see how that other role fits with my style. I'm only a little worried though because those people you can tell are natural extroverts (which I am not), which makes it easy for them to stand in front and get everyone together. I enjoy being the one writing the document, and I feel like that's an important role, but I was disappointed that none of the awards went to individuals in those roles.

I was also proud of myself for being in this committee. With it being only my second semester, I still wasn't completely experienced in the Model UN but I still wanted to challenge myself. I am the type of person that always looks for the challenge since I never want to be bored in an activity that I know I could do more with. I constantly strive to look for opportunities that will help me grow from my last experiences. I am so thankful I was able to be in this topic because it was a lot different from previous committees I've been in and I feel like because of it, I have grown so much. I feel a lot more confident in the Model UN and a lot more excited. I noticed in Grove's Middle Eastern class that I was so excited for the stimulation because to me, being in that diplomatic setting feels natural and I love it, which is not a feeling I had until after this Seattle confidence. Being in this committee truly gave me more confidence with my abilities as a diplomat.



MUN, Fall 2015

Dec. 3<sup>rd</sup>

Model UN Reflection

Though I have participated in Model UN conferences in the past, I always find that there is something to learn at each conference. This year, I was Germany in the United Nations Environmental Programme, which gave me a lot more influence than I have had at past conferences. I soon found that this came with a lot of responsibility. As Germany contributes a lot of funds to small island developing states, I wanted to work with those delegates to make sure their voice was heard on a topic that is very important to their state. At times, I felt like a mediator between the small states and the larger ones, and I think it is important to have that mediator to encourage states to work together equally.

I immediately jumped into helping the small island states, while other wealthy nations such as France, the United Kingdom, and the United States immediately grouped together to write a resolution. I learned that sometimes you have to break away from what you might consider easy or normal, such as Germany working with other European states, to get the best work done. Although I was not immediately working with other western states, I felt that I was representing Germany's position on this topic well.

I also learned the value of being patient and open to other ideas and opinions, even if they differ from your own. At one point, I have Myanmar forcefully telling me my resolution impeded on their state sovereignty. I had to be very patient with her because she would talk over me and dispute everything I said. Once I was finally able to explain my point of view and recognize I understood her concerns, she calmed down and eventually signed onto the resolution. In another instance, I had Cuba full on yelling at me, telling me I could not tell her how to vote and that my state was a colonizer who caused the entire climate change problem. I let her yell at me and then calmly explained that I was simply giving her my state's position on the issue and hoped to learn about her state's position so that we might be able to collaborate, as is the purpose of the United Nations. She refused to talk to me the rest of the conference, but the delegates around us when the instance occurred all continued to work with me and tell me they appreciated my cooperation and conflict management.

Overall, the most important thing I learned at this conference was the importance of staying diplomatic and respectful when negotiating. Though it can be tough sometimes when certain delegates won't hear you out, its definitely worth it in the long run because other delegates will see how you handle situations and that will influence whether they will want to work with you or not.

I'm really proud of the research and overall knowledge I had on the topic. I felt like I was able to contribute a lot to the resolution and when negotiating because I understood Germany's position well. I'm also proud of the resolution I participated in writing. I would have liked to have written more of it, but I felt that I wrote a decent amount and that it was well written and accurate. I also got to teach one of the delegates how to write a resolution, which I am proud of because at my first conference I wasn't very aware of how to write a resolution, and I would have appreciated someone showing me how to do it. I'm also proud of my ability to have stayed aware of all working papers on the floor. In the past, I had been overwhelmed with how many papers there were and didn't know how to keep up with them all, but it was different this time. Though there



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were still many papers, I made sure to look at everyone's and have a full understanding of them. I made sure to check in on the papers every so often to make sure they were still something Germany would support after all the edits made to them. I was able to be either a sponsor or a signatory on all of them so I am also proud of the work done by all the delegates to create really great resolutions.

At this conference, I think I could have done a lot better on my speeches. I got really nervous and stuttered through all of them and didn't look up from my paper very often. I also ran out of time on every single one of them and was never able to complete my entire speech. I don't think I'll ever be great at public speaking, but I think going over it a few more times before the conference started would probably have made a big difference.

I also think I could improve on the confidence in my knowledge of my state as well as when negotiating with other delegates. At one point, the United States called me out on nuclear energy and instead of trusting what I already knew about my state, I went back to check my notes about the situation. I feel like this made me look like I didn't know what I was doing. After that experience, I never spent much time talking to the United States because I didn't want him to call me out again, also I was slightly intimidated by him. I think if I had been more confident in my knowledge of the situation, it would have worked out differently and I would have been better able to work with the United States.

I feel as though I have seen a lot of growth in my abilities in Model UN through this experience. Because it has been one year since my first conference, I was able to compare that experience to this one, which was my fourth. I've seen more confidence in what I am capable of doing, and have seen a lot of growth in the quality of my work. My country profile reports, position papers, resolutions, and interactions with delegates at the conference have all greatly improved, I think, from my first conference, so I am excited to see how they will improve and develop next semester.

Overall, I really enjoyed this conference. I really enjoyed my committee and the topic we discussed. I also met a lot of really nice people in my committee and look forward to (hopefully) working with them at future conferences. I think the team came together really well this semester and I look forward to continuing to work with this team and everything we will be doing to together next semester.

Also, thank you Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl for everything you do to make sure we continue to have these opportunities!





## POLS 427 Reflection Paper

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

Concluding my first MUN conference, I feel that I have learned a great many things. The most significant aspect I learned about international relations and diplomacy was how utterly complicated and frustrating the process can be. Participating in the Environmental Programme (UNEP), the entirety of the committee was largely in agreement on combating climate change. Even with this broad consensus, negotiations between coalitions and some specific countries were tenuous. While some of this may have been contributed to individual students working towards receiving a high grade for their performance, I believe most of the complications were natural occurrences. As each country had inherent biases, different goals, and alternative motivations, many delegates did not agree on how to solve climate change. For example, Russia and Brazil repeatedly pushed for a resolution that dealt with “climate refugees”, while the small islands states wanted to focus on immediate solutions. Such trivial disagreements took the entirety of three days to figure out, eventually leading to consensus on all resolutions. Ultimately, I learned that if international diplomacy was difficult with a small group of millennials on a topic that usually receives consensus agreement, the actual UN must be ridiculously complex with a variety of significant roadblocks.

2. What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of my ability to use my research to form the largest coalition in the committee. At the beginning of the first unmoderated suspension, I specifically sought out every small island state that is part of the Alliance of Small Island States (AOSIS) and began communicating with them. Many of the delegates that I talked to did not know they were part of AOSIS, including the Maldives who heads the organization. By informing them of the alliance, we were able to connect over our similar socioeconomic situations and the impact sea level rise has on our states. At first, our coalition was made up of, Maldives, Fiji, Thailand, and Panama. However, as other states began to see our cooperation, we were able to form into a larger cohesive group. By the end of Saturday, we had over 30 members, including all the small island states, combining our resolutions.

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



I think I could have worked to be more vocal at the conference. I thought I demonstrated good leadership and communication skills during the first day and a half of the conference, however, as our coalition grew to include more states, I found myself getting left out of the process. Although I interjected at times, offering information that aided our resolutions, I ultimately felt that I was left behind as more nations joined our coalition. Since I initially formed the coalition that grew so big, I felt that I should have played a bigger role near its conclusion. Even though I remained a sponsor on the resolution, I felt that I could have had more to offer. Many of the small island states were unaware of certain reports made about climate change, done specifically by small island states. I think that if I had been more outspoken near the end of the committee, we could have had a more concrete resolution.

4. What did this experience teach you about yourself?

This experience taught me that preparedness can dramatically affect a group situation. Those who did research in the committee as opposed to those who did not, stuck out immensely amongst the delegates. I learned that because I had put in the effort before hand to learn about my topic and country, I was more confident and could contribute more to the experience of the committee. By being informed, I learned that it was easier to enjoy the experience. I was able to comprehend what other delegates were talking about and agree, or challenge them, when needed. I also learned that even though I consider myself a confident and outspoken individual, in large groups I can lose such traits. As seen when we combined our coalitions, I resorted to being on the sidelines because so many delegates were voicing their opinions. While I may have been effective in a small to medium sized group, I stepped down when there was a large group of people. Ultimately, I feel that I gained a tangible understanding of international relations. Although it wasn't the real UN, I believe that I have a better understanding of its processes, as well as the barriers it faces to progress.

Model United Nations  
Professors Chris Scholl and Andrea Grove  
May 8, 2015  
Reflection Paper

Out of all the semesters being part of the MUN team, this semester has been one of the most memorable for me. It was interesting to discover that while in my 6<sup>th</sup> semester doing MUN, I would still be encountered with so many novel experiences. The conference this semester reinforced many important lessons I had previously learned in past semesters regarding negotiating, international relations, and diplomatic professionalism. However, my favorite thing about being part of the MUN team this semester was realizing that no matter how many times I



participate in these conferences, I learn just as much about myself as I do about the countries I represent.

Personally, the most exciting aspect of MUN this semester was getting to participate in a new committee that had never been simulated before. Having to research and discuss brand new topics to MUN was exciting and challenging. This experience gave me a new perspective because I was able to see what it was like to work in lesser-known aspects of international diplomacy. Being able to experience this new dynamic was very interesting and exciting as it made my opinion on topics being discussed vital and essential. The new structure was made rather evident during the first topic as the opinions and suggestions of most delegates tended to be very similar; it was not until the second day that delegates were comfortable enough with the topics and the nature of the committee to actually object to certain proposals. The most important thing I learned from being a delegate in the CND is that when negotiating with others in a new committee that discusses new topics, it is essential to be extremely clear, concise, and articulate because what you say will heavily impact the direction of the negotiation. I made sure that whenever I spoke in formal debate, I did so in a very clear and precise manner so that I left no one else confused on what my positions were and left no room for interpretation. This is a lesson that I believe will prove to be very valuable in the future; it will certainly help in the rest of my academic career, but I also see it as something useful to keep in mind for most careers.

I would easily classify this conference as one of the most interesting conferences in my MUN career. My committee in NWMUN had some very excellent and responsible delegates, but it also had some pretty awful ones. Unfortunately for me in CND, the important states in my voting bloc were absent or not playing their role properly. For the first topic, it was difficult for me to find any African states at all, and those that I did find were working on math homework. This was all very unusual for me because I had never been in a committee where the vast majority of my voting bloc had no clue as to what they were doing. Fortunately, I was able to adapt and work with other delegates who did not belong to my immediate bloc and push my ideas through their working paper. The disorder disappeared for the second day. Debate for the second day was more organized as states broke into working groups where regional interests would be discussed and agreed upon; afterwards, each regional block would send two representatives to then write the resolution in order to create a consensus document. In the end, we ended up having two documents, but each was passed by acclamation. Voting bloc for the topic lasted approximately 7 minutes. This taught me the importance of organization in order to make discussions more effective, especially in a diplomatic setting.

Despite being content with my performance in the conference, there is still one thing that I wish I would have done differently. I wish that I would have put more time into the policy paper. I noticed that the vast majority of the awards Chico receives are for their position papers. While I know that most of that work comes from their advisor and his officers, I have been in MUN for longer than some Chico officers, so I should be able to write policy papers that compete with ones Chico delegates present. The goal that I am going to set myself for future conferences, especially next NWMUN, is to win a policy paper award because I believe that I have a lot of knowledge on the UN and its organs as well as the actions that the UN takes to promote peace throughout the world. Therefore, I want to prove to myself that I can write better than Chico delegates (or whoever writes their policy papers).



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The most important thing that I was able to take away from this conference is that it showed me exactly how much I have learned from being part of the MUN team for six semesters. It reminded me of not only the amount of useful skills I've learned, but it showed me that I have been able to apply what I have learned throughout these years and how I have used these lessons to become a better delegate.

Fall 2015

Reflection Paper

Being apart of the California State University Channel Islands Model United Nations team is honestly an honor. I am so glad to say that this is my 3<sup>rd</sup> semester participating in this award winning team. It is still extremely difficult for me to narrow down and finally choose so many positive and life changing aspects that happened to me during my conferences in the past and this current fall semester. I think that it also important to note that while many positive experiences has happened at the conference itself, a lot of what I learned was from our class meetings leading up to the conference such as not interacting with states that your delegation would normally not work with. It is much easier to learn how to diplomatically argue with your peers than just going for it at the conference with complete strangers.

The most important thing that I learned at the Seattle Fall 2015 conference was that even though it is important to understand that every state is equal at an international body like the United Nations, some states need to assert their power to result with a cohesive agreement. With this in mind though, it is still important to keep interacting with the other delegates so that eventually the outcome of your hard work is seen. This was the most agreeable conference that I have ever been to and it was extremely easy to form studious bonds with those who were dedicated to find solutions because most of the delegates were willing to work. I also learned that negotiations did not have to occur within the same group of people and it is wonderful to branch out and work with different delegates from different regional blocks to make sure that the most agreeable outcome is possible.



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At this conference, I am most proud of being able to pass our entire document by acclamation. We had a very rushed and intense process; by the third day I was nervous that we weren't going to be able to finish. Luckily, by the strong amount of will by the other delegates, we were able to all work together to finish. As Germany/having a lot of money, I was initially worried about the power it brought. I wasn't sure what the other delegates would be asking for and if I would be able to produce an outcome with others in mind but still embodying the ideals of Germany. Fortunately, many delegates initially introduced themselves to me and chose to state their states' concerns and what they wish to see financially within the first minute of meeting. I was able to then sort out my own efficient plan on what to do first and who to speak to first. From there it was a domino effect. Once I was able to speak to some European states, I was able to talk to the African Block as well as the Latin American Block to have a better understanding of everyone's goals. I am very proud of my self for leading and organizing one of the topics. It was really encouraging when other delegates would present themselves to me with their ideas and ask for approval. It felt pretty awesome. Being able to show determination and strength through this experience, among others, is one of my proudest moments the conferences.

While I was able to lead a coalition at this conference, I still had some trouble putting my name on the speakers list. I did speak once but it was not as substantial as I would have liked. I wasn't nervous leading up to the conference, but once I was in that room, my nerves overtook me! Now that I am back in the rhythm, hopefully I will be able to speak better. I plan for the next conferences to spend half my time speaking to other delegates in unmoderated discussions but the other half at the podium. I need to push myself to speak in front of strangers and not be as nervous.

All conferences continue to teach me a lot about myself. They teach me that it is alright to depend on others sometimes, because without teamwork, it would be difficult to get anything accomplished; to be more confident in my capabilities and to not second-guess myself because failure can only happen if I do not try in the first place; that a leader is never someone who speaks the loudest but is the person observing and interacting with everyone in the room; that even the most intelligent person in the conference, while intimidating at first, is still a human being and most importantly, still a student willing to absorb more knowledge; that education is not just something learned in the classroom, but is something gained by its' application outside of the stereotypical setting; that Chico isn't always horrible, they sometimes have good seeds; most importantly, these conferences continuously reaffirmed the passion I have for international relations and the Model United Nations community.



Reaction Paper  
POLS 427

I represented the Republic of Germany in the Reformed Security Council for Northwest Model United Nations in Seattle, Washington. This was my second semester and third conference with Model United Nations (M.U.N.). This is a reflection on my most recent adventures with the M.U.N. team. There are many things I learned about Germany and the Reformed Security Council due to hard work and good research. However, there are a few critiques that I'll definitely keep in mind for next semester.

Reformed Security Council (RSC) has not been actualized within the United Nations but is a fun and interesting way to implement into the M.U.N. for the purposes of simulating how it would work. There are a few differences within the RSC. One would be the amount of members. Currently there are five veto powers and ten non-permanent members that are elected and rotated every two years. The RSC differs with five veto powers, ten permanent members, and fifteen non-permanent members, making the entirety total at twenty-five member states represented in the RSC. The new permanent members include: Brazil, Germany, India, Japan, and South Africa who are not given veto power. The rotating powers include the African Group with three non-permanent seats, the Asian-Pacific Group with one non-permanent seat, the Latin American Group and Caribbean Group with three non-permanent seats, the Eastern European Group with one non-permanent seat, and the Western European Group with two non-permanent seats. Each member is meant to hold presidency for a total of one month, rotating according to alphabetical order.

Voting is also extremely different within the RSC. In the Security Council, veto powers have absolute control if they do not wish to pass a resolution. In the RSC, a veto power may be overridden with a twenty member vote.

In Seattle, the RSC initially began work on threats to international peace and security caused by terrorist acts. The work completed on the draft papers was a long and difficult process however, in light of recent attacks in Paris, many member states had their minds turned to cooperation rather than a priority in politics. Much of the resolution came from the International Syria Support Group (ISSG) which had recommended a time line for a ceasefire and a change in government for Syria. All of the veto powers and many other nations were included in this group and had come to a consensus in November of 2015 on how to handle the crisis within Syria.

Prior to voting on the resolutions the RSC was informed that Bosnia Herzegovina was experiencing a split in the nation and the government had called for an intervention by the United Nations due to illegal separation in accordance with international law. The RSC made a unanimous decision to close the current topic in order to take care of the pressing Bosnia conflict. Germany and Bosnia hold tight relations and Germany is one of Bosnia's greatest allies. A resolution was passed and the Bosnian crisis was resolved with a ceasefire and peace talks between the two conflicting groups along with the prevention of a civil war. By the end of passing the resolution we no longer had time to spare for the terrorism topic and had to close the committee.



The experience was pretty wonderful and I feel as though I was able to get many ideas across for the terrorism draft resolution. I was the one who recommended to build a resolution off of the language used in the ISSG and added many crucial pieces within the resolution. I was able to communicate with people and was one of the leading delegates for the terrorism topic. The Chair also gave us an opportunity to work with near-real-time information and let us use the new Resolution 2249 that was implemented the Friday of our conference. It was a wonderful addition that forced delegates to think on their feet and allowed for many to change their stance to a with a more realistic approach. However, when tables turned to Bosnia-Herzegovina I feel as though much of my influence slipped and many of the nations that were writing the resolution for the Bosnia conflict were not following suit with realistic international relations. I also ran into an issue with my own personal previous experiences. An era where I recall dealing with violence suppression and near-real-time decisions made it difficult to adjust to the slow moving diplomatic avenues. My mind revolved around immediate security and suppression of weapons with facilitated peace talks by higher powers. Many of the delegates were slow to come to decisions on a pressing issue that involved thousands of deaths.

If I were to do it over again I would have taken initiative with a more realistic approach in a German lead to resolving the conflict. I allowed myself to get frustrated with other candidates and lost momentum. In the United Nations I'm certain much more complex issues have arisen where ambassadors had to overcome difficult situations and proceed with as much enthusiasm as they could muster. I shouldn't allow others to get to me and continue to take pride in work that is my own and not done by others.

I'm looking forward to next semester. Even though there are many conferences that will prove to be a challenging work load I'm ready to make it a better semester than I had this time around. And as always, I highly enjoyed working with people from all over North America (and Dominica) and was thrilled to make acquaintance with many who have already said would be in Portland or San Francisco.

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Model UN

### **Reflection Paper**

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

Participating in this MUN conference helped my skills in writing, researching, debating and communicating. MUN conferences have various components to them, its not simply writing the policy papers. The amount of work that goes into these policy papers alone can be attributed as to work for two classes. Policy papers have key features that distinguish them from any other academic work; the format is very specific as well as the information that can be mention in the



paper. Finding the information takes dedication and time. Varying from topic and the country that gets assigned the workload can vary but it still nonetheless takes effort. Researching and finding credible sources also can become a problem depending on how influential the country is. However, at times the country can have too much information that becomes overwhelming when putting the information onto the paper. With this in mind, having only two pages to write about topics that can actually be a ten-page paper on its own becomes very difficult. Participating in MUN has provided me with the skills necessary to condense information into the page limit while still providing the reader with valuable work. This type of skill will be necessary beyond my college education and will deeply aid me in my professional work outside of the classroom setting. Debating about topics and how to assess the issue at hand can also be difficult when so many individuals are aiming to get their points said without listening to what others have to say. Part of this conference is coming to a multi-lateral consensus on issues that may or may not directly affect each country, therefore listening to what everyone present has to say is only not crucial. In order to get other delegates to hear what myself and others had to say was a difficult task that had to be done. One had to use the time given to make speech effectively with a clear message. This seems easier said than done and by participating in this conference I learned necessary skills to achieve this. Lastly, communicating with everyone in the conference was a hard task because we all were working at different speeds and on different topics. Not everyone understood in the same manner what we wanted addressed in the resolution and that was to be expected for we don't all comprehend ideas in the same way. In order to get my ideas understood it was necessary to explain it to everyone through both written form and verbal form. Having the willingness to do so is also important for not everyone in the committee was willing to have his or her ideas questioned. Communicating effectively in this conference was key to having a successful resolution and will also help outside of the classroom.

2. What are you most proud of?

NWMUN Seattle taught me how to become even more reliable on myself than any other conference. While other delegates in the committee had head delegates that would go into their committee and ask where they needed extra assistance on such as resolutions and how their country had voted on it, I took the time to look and research for myself. Although this limited the time that I could add more ideas to the resolution, it increased my knowledge in researching effectively. This committee was very specific to the type of power that we had and what we could do, knowing this ahead of time also helped me when it came to piecing the resolution together. While other delegates from different schools had head delegate pass them information, I had it already in my notes and this helped to foster better relations with delegates who knew what they wanted achieved as well. Relying on myself was key to my success in this conference because there would have been other method for be to find the information if it wasn't for myself. By having spent various hours researching before the committee I knew how to attain information quickly and with the correct sources.

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





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One skill that I could have done better is being able to multitask under pressure. Becoming immensely involved in trying to get our resolution to be written during the time frame given to us was important to getting it passed however, I would go up to speak about our resolution then quickly being to work on it again with the rest of our group. It was the lack of time that also played time into this event. Even though the conference is for three days that is still not enough time to formulate an adequate paper and thus the whole delegation room was in frenzy quickly trying to write a paper that encompassed the whole international community but at the same time addressed the problem at hand. Delegates were thus doing many tasks at once; writing papers, speaking to the delegation and gaining support for their papers all at once. This experience has further enhanced my skills at multi-tasking as well. I was under the notion that I was very capable of multitasking before we went off to Seattle, yet working under such pressure further tested my skills in ways that no other class will ever be able to do so.

4. What did this experience teach you about yourself?

This conference taught me how to have the patience that that I needed when working with individuals with different characters in a diplomatic manner. Delegates during the conference were of all parts of the country and thus some had more training than others, some were highly competitive and came across as not very diplomatic for they would not bother to listen to what other delegates had to say but wanted to take the lead in writing a paper. When events as this happened I was patient and made them understand that this is a collaborative effort without the help of other countries the paper would not be credible. Having the skill to deal with people as such will not only aid in conferences to come but outside of college. Having the patience to deal with different characters have myself the rewarding satisfaction of working with people who are just as intrigued for the issues the United Nations faces as myself. Talking with the other delegates about what their countries faced and the resources they lacked and informing them about my own countries troubles opened up the door to finding a solution, the more perspectives that were offered the better the answer to the challenge was attained.



## Model United Nations

December 3, 2015

### Reflection Paper

This semester for the Northwest Model United Nations, I represented the state of Angola for the United Nations Environmental Programme. Given that this is only my second semester participating in MUN, there was still a lot to experience and to learn. The dynamic was especially different than last semester given that I am a returning member now and would help other members better understand the procedures of the conference.

When preparing for the conference, specifically through writing the background and profile papers, I had a much better grasp on what to research and write about. In comparison to the past semester, I realized that most of my research would be more centered around what my country does within its own state, as opposed to what it contributes internationally. My original way of thinking was to prove what my country was capable of doing within its own state in regards to the committee's topics. However, this semester, I understood that it was more helpful and more applicable to find more research on a state's international actions. What proved to be most helpful was finding past resolutions that my state has sponsored and supported. This not only strengthened my state's position what negotiating with others, but also we used those post documents when creating our own resolutions. While it was still helpful to have information on my own state's actions and legislation, the information on its international work proved to be more helpful when actually working with others.

After going through that change in perspective when researching, it made me see how other delegates in my committee would also perform their research, often done not very well. There were several instances where other delegates would push a point under the claim that action is severely needed because no action has been taken before in the past. However, after just a simple search, other delegates and I were able to find more than enough information to disprove the others' claims, thus disproving their general credibility. So in that sense, I am proud of myself for at least having arguments that could be backed up by documents and legislation that was passed and implemented. This was especially helpful in the very beginning of the conference when I was first meeting other delegates and explaining the views of Angola. And by extension, since many don't know where Angola is, let alone what it does, it makes my argument appear that much more persuasive.

While I was much more talkative in the beginning of the conference and more willing to spread the ideas of Angola, there were times where I wished I was more involved in the resolution writing process. Early on, I was part of working group that comprised of just a handful of delegates. Soon we merged with another group that was made up of mainly small island states, which looked really favorable on us since our committee's topic was on the impact rising seas on small island states. Since we were mostly comprised of much more poorer states, we needed to lobby other delegates to become sponsors and signatories and provide more concrete support for our paper. Soon we became a large group and the chair then advised to merge with another large working group since our papers were rather similar in the actions we wanted to take. At that point, it became very difficult to voice any opinions to a group so large when merging. In addition, with a state like Angola that is not very powerful nor directly impacted by the issue discussed, it was not easy to continue to have a say in the resolution making process. So not only do I wish I had a more powerful state with the chance that other delegates would take more word



more seriously, but also that I would've contributed more later in the conference when drafting resolutions.

This semester's conference was definitely different from last semester, when I first started. It was slightly off-putting for me when the new members of our class would ask me for help and what to expect because I feel like I'm still in that position of asking for help from the older members, both in and outside of committee. Nevertheless, I was still happy to help but I still felt that there was only so much that I can help with. This conference as shown to me that I still need to work on my public speaking skills, especially when improvising and get ideas across when addressing the body. Only until actually being in committee did I realize that everything that I do, whether it's speaking to the body or negotiating one-on-one, other delegates really do pay attention to that and judge my credibility based off of that. While I still need to work on those skills, I look forward to participating in Model United Nations again and keep improving.

12/4/15

Dr Grove and Dr Scholl

POLS 427

Reflection Paper

1. One of the most important things I learned in this conference was about the boundaries of my committee. I represented Germany in ECOSOC, and quickly learned that the jurisdiction of ECOSOC is little. Our topic, Finance for Development, produced multiple working groups, all with separate focuses. One group was focusing on types of aid and "improving macroeconomic policies," another was focused on education, environment, and health, and another was focused on South-South cooperation. However, none of the groups seemed like they actually had and coherent ideas or any specifics.

I met with the United Kingdom and we decided to become advocates for debt relief for small developing countries that are plagued by large interest rates on foreign aid. The UK, Serbia, Antigua and Barbuda and myself began to look into how to relieve debts for these nations. Dr Scholl and yourself came into my committee at one point and offered some advice about HIPCs and MDRI, which became the platform for our idea of IDGs. Incremental Development Grants were designed to be grants that developing nations would apply for that would match the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals agenda. Once a state achieved the criteria that the IMF and state



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had decided upon together, they would receive a second grant, and so on and so forth. We hoped this would create a system of accountability and prevent corruption by asking nations to provide proof of their progress before receiving more aid, incentivizing them to stay on track. We consulted with the chair about our idea and they asked us to look at Social Investment Bonds. However, we weren't looking for investments. We were looking for grants and the eradication of debts for developing nations. Our group tailored the idea to reflect upon SIB's, but we attempted to keep the teeth in our document.

We also initially spoke in our document about vulture funds. Vulture funds are a term for private investment companies buying the debts of developing/indebted states, and later suing the developing/indebted state for the entire debt. GA Resolution 68/304 even referenced them and how they undermine debt-restructuring processes. In our working paper, we condemned vulture funds and called upon the IMF to prevent these practices. The GA passed resolution 69/314 in September 2015, which addressed the battle between Argentina and vulture funds. I later learned that Germany, the US, Japan, and UK had voted against this resolution, and as Germany and the UK were sponsoring the resolution, we were forced to remove clauses that mention vulture funds from the paper. From this I learned that I should have known my state's position on this topic. It was difficult to go against what I personally believe, but I was there to represent Germany.

After omitting the clause about vulture funds, our group sent our paper to the dais and received feedback. Essentially, we were asked to take the teeth out of our document. ECOSOC is a body that uses preambulatory and operative terms like *welcomes*, *urges*, *recommends*, and *notes with appreciation*, rather than *condemns* or *expressing its regret*. We had overstepped our boundaries within the committee and had to drastically alter our document, making it much softer. Around this time, the dais asked that the committee as a whole would merge all working papers into one consensus document. Our group first made a merge with Bolivia, who had a paper about South-South relations. After seeing Bolivia's document, we deemed that little was actually usable. The clauses they had created cited incorrect documents and overstepped ECOSOC jurisdiction. We then continued to attempt to merge with other groups, giving selected editing power to individuals that represented each group. Some committee members, namely Bolivia and Portugal, interpreted this action as excluding them from the final document. However, we were aiming to simplify the merging process.

Eventually, all papers were merged into one consensus document and the body voted by acclamation. Though I understand that ECOSOC is a consensus committee, it was pretty frustrating because I feel as though our idea for debt relief was completely watered down. It gave me true insight as to how difficult it must be to implement any sort of system for economic reform on the global scale, or to implement anything through the UN on a whole. Overall, I learned about the jurisdiction of my committee, the difficulty in producing a consensus document and the sacrifices you have to make to reach that point, and the struggle in implementing any sort of reform within the international community.

2. I'm most proud that I attempted to really take a crack at reforming the current system of financing for development. I genuinely feel that the idea that our working group came up with could help to relieve debts for developing nations. It seemed like a building block for a great system. I'm also proud that I took the initiative in getting a group to focus on a single, tangible aspect of financing for development. Previously, I'm not sure I would have had the guts to go around and advocate our idea to other states and ask for their support. This time I felt



comfortable describing the system we had hoped to develop to each state, and I felt as though I fell into a leadership role within my committee.

3. I think I could have done better at speaking publicly. On a whole, I'm much more comfortable speaking one on one with fellow delegates, or in groups, to discuss ideas. There seems to be much more engagement and it seems like the exchange of words is of a higher quality. When I spoke to the entire committee, I felt largely ignored or like my words were worthless, which wasn't a great feeling. However, I think the way to combat this is to probably speak more, and to become a representative from my group and advocate for our ideas publicly.

I also think I could have done better at knowing my state's views on topics. For example, I wish I had conducted more research about finance for development and Germany's in depth views on debt relief and foreign aid.

4. I learned so much about myself from this conference. Model UN has a unique way of making you grow, and to push your comfort zone. Maybe it's because you speak on the behalf of a state, rather than on your own behalf, but it really allowed me to become more comfortable with working a room and becoming an advocate for an issue and a resolution. I learned that taking the lead on an issue doesn't require you to speak loudly or often, but to speak about the important issues. This experience taught me that I am capable of taking on a leadership role, even if I do it subtly. I'm incredibly thankful for this opportunity and all that it has taught me about leadership, diplomacy, and the UN.

Professor Grove  
Model UN Reflection Paper  
Seattle Conference

I learned many important things through my Model United Nations experience, both at the Seattle conference and in class. This class gave me a unique experience and taught me a great deal about international relations overall. One of the more important things I learned and realized was that behind all of these international agreements, treaties, and organizations consists of people who work hard to try and reach an agreement. I also realized how important it is to keep a channel of communication open even if you are adversaries or enemies. If communication is cut off it is difficult to resolve problems or develop a relationship, therefore, channels must be left open.

Another important thing I learned was that no matter the size of the state they play a critical role in solving pressing issues. It is not just the large states that have influence to change the world's problems because these problems do not just affect large states, they affect everyone. Furthermore, every state has something say, no matter the topic and they have an obligation to



try and contribute to the solution. For example, Antigua and Barbuda has much stake in finance for development, this was evident through government statements, programs, and UN programs supported. In addition, I learned that truly small and powerless states have power in the UN, they have the ability to state their position and push for legislation.

I am proud of several things with regards to the Model United Nations class. A great deal of negotiating, debating, researching, and writing went into the resolutions put forth. Another thing I am proud of is all the teamwork that the Channel Islands model United Nations team showed through the conference. As a group we were really able to work with one another to come up with resolutions and working papers. This was especially true for me and Melissa, we collaborated with one another and it worked out really well for us. Also, as a team there was no politics involved and everyone was eager and more than willing to help each other achieve the goals set in place. It was also great to rely on one another for support and guidance, I know this was especially true for me because it was my first time at Seattle. At times it could be nerve wracking and frustrating but I was lucky to have a great team around to rely on.

I do not know if I would use the word proud but pleased to know that I was able to hold my own and some instances excel compared to other delegates from other schools. At the conference there were extremely intelligent individuals that knew exactly what they were doing and had a deep understanding of the topic had hand. However, as the conference went on and as debate deepened, I realized that I was right there with them and was more than capable of contributing. This was possible because I had put in the work necessary to do so and I already have a great desire for international issues. Also, I had a great professors in Scholl and Grove helping me every step of the way, especially in the beginning. Most people know nothing about model United Nations, let alone the actual United Nations, and I am glad that was able to have the experience of gaining that knowledge.

There are several things I could have done better at the conference. For one, towards the end I felt that I could have been even more engaged. It is tough to have energy at the end of the conference and stay completely engaged. I was active in the discussion at the end but I think I could have pushed through the exhaustion and added a few more points. In addition, I felt that I could have contributed more to the final resolution and be more immersed in exactly what was happening but with so many moving parts and little time at the end, it was difficult.

I learned a lot about myself from this Model United Nations experience. I already knew that I loved international affairs and current events but Model UN reaffirmed this. I had fun debating and researching the topics at hand for the conference. Also, instead of just knowing current events and international affairs, Model UN gave me the opportunity to actually apply that knowledge to something, which I thoroughly enjoyed. In addition, I realized that although the resolutions passed at the conference would end up helping no one or change any existing policies, I still think it would be very rewarding to do some sort of work like that. Model UN gave me the opportunity to experience what work like that might be like. The work conducted at the conference was extremely challenging because of the sheer amount of time involved and also the need for one to be able to compromise and communicate with other delegates. I learned that I am more than capable of communicating and compromising with others in order to achieve a greater goal, in this case passing resolutions. Although the communication might not be pretty at times, it was the ability to work past that and reach the end goal. I was able to improve my communication skills while applying knowledge I already knew.



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In addition, I knew that it is very important to keep an open mind and take in all perspective when talking to someone, especially in a setting like Model UN. It is essential to acknowledge other's ideas and work with them in an attempt to achieve the goals set by the committee. It is important to not necessarily shoot down others ideas and keep an open mind, this was reaffirmed at Model UN and I experienced the real world implications of this. I was also able to grow as a person from this conference in comparison to last semester. I felt that I was able to truly grow and gain a better understanding of myself. I was able to do this because I put myself in a situation that I am unfamiliar with and really had to function at a high level to be successful. Furthermore, I am extremely proud and happy with the people I met from all around the world who were great, hopefully I am able to keep in touch with them.

Model UN  
4 December 2015

Model UN was an amazing experience for me. I was very overwhelmed and nervous at first, but throughout the conference I became progressively more comfortable and I definitely want to do it again next fall.

The biggest thing that I learned at the conference was that it is really important to be outgoing and to put yourself out there with confidence. As a small state, I didn't have a lot asked of me, so I had a lot of time to listen and observe and learn from the people around me. The working group that I was in was really large and a lot of big states like the UK, France, Germany, and Russia were involved, so even though I helped write the draft resolution, I didn't get a lot of credit or a lot of time to speak with them. It was really cool to meet and talk to people from other



universities and get to know them. It was also neat to see so many talented people who were all working towards one goal.

However, even though I didn't necessarily get to speak all that often, I learned that being outgoing is the most important thing. It's really easy to walk up to someone and ask about their working paper or their state's position on a topic, and most people in my committee were open and welcoming. My committee didn't have too many people who seemed unfriendly, but there were a few who definitely weren't trying to be diplomatic. I learned from that that it's definitely better to be friendly and open to new people and new ideas rather than closed off and focused on only what your state wants.

The other thing I learned was that it is better to work hard and enjoy every moment of the conference. Watching the delegates from Chico and other universities, it was easy to see that they were there almost because they had to be, rather than because they really wanted to be involved and make friends working with others. It was difficult to watch some of the obviously more introverted people stand up and stumble through a speech only to get up and put their name on the speaker's list once again. I learned that it's really important to be outgoing and push yourself, but it's also okay to stay within your comfort zone sometimes. Everyone brings something different to the table; if everyone is just yelling and talking over each other, nothing will get done. I think that everyone in my committee was very talented and it was neat to work with such a large, diverse group of people.

Since it was my first conference, I learned that there are a lot of different ways to approach things and it's probably best to find a balance between them. So many delegates were focused on the speakers list that they didn't really do anything in working groups, and vice versa. With my working group, we had people focused on the paper, but some also made a point to go and get on the speakers list and tell the rest of the delegates what we were working on and why. I learned that it's important to keep everyone on the same page, and to do that it's often necessary to make speeches that are geared towards one working group or topic, rather than just repeating the same things over and over.

The thing I'm most proud of is really that I was able to get comfortable walking up to people and just starting a conversation. That's something that I'm really not used to, but it was a whole different experience at the conference and I really enjoyed myself. Though I know I could have done a lot of things better, I'm really proud of myself for putting myself out there and working with others even as a small state. I was a bit frustrated with my working group in that I felt I had a lot of valuable ideas that they could have given more attention, but I'm also proud of myself for working diplomatically with everyone and doing my best to listen and give input on ideas.

I feel I could have done a lot of things better. In the beginning I was really overwhelmed and scared and I didn't initially establish myself as someone others could come to and work with, and I regret that. I also feel that, though I was prepared, my position papers could have been better. I would have liked to have played a bigger role, but because I didn't initially establish myself as someone with opinions and a loud voice, I missed out on that opportunity. I feel like because I was such a small state, I sort of discounted myself and the role that I had to play. I should have been more confident in myself and what I had to bring to the discussion, and things would have been different. Overall I feel the thing I need to work most on is my confidence, because that's really what matters when it comes to speaking and leading during the conference.





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This experience really taught me that I shouldn't listen when my anxiety tells me I can't do something or that I'm not good enough. I learned that I can be an asset to a working group or even just my group of friends. Even though I'm quiet, I do have valuable opinions and thoughts and people want to know what they are. I also learned that it's important to speak up and give my thoughts and opinions because people do want to hear them and they are helpful. It's important to be confident and outspoken even when it seems intimidating to do so. Mostly, I learned that it's okay to be quiet, but it's also okay to speak up and be heard.

Professor Grove, Scholl  
POLS 427  
1/4/15

### Reflection

Each conference is filled with different topics and lessons but most importantly it's filled with people with different backgrounds and personalities. I've learned the importance of staying in my state's character and how much my personality can influence that portrayal. In this conference I learned that staying in character contributes to the overall production of a working group. In this conference, I served the General Assembly, there was a good mixture of experienced delegates and new delegates. However, I found that the delegates that represented prominent countries such as France, the UK, and Japan were fairly new to the dynamics of the conference. As a result, at the beginning of the conference a few of these states didn't recognize the relevance of Germany in their international relations. As the conference continued I noticed some of these delegates were aimlessly talking to states that were not only opposites on political ideologies but also regionally irrelevant. I continued talking to those states would listen to me and continued approaching France and the UK. I occasionally mentioned agreements of the past or facts that linked our relations, slowly but surely these delegates began to recognize "Germany" as an ally. Throughout the conference our group extended and developed into one of the most productive working groups I've ever experienced. It was wonderful to finally see the great qualities of these new and experienced delegates. A few conferences ago, I realized diplomacy is key in negotiations, and currently I realize the importance of history. The history of a state establishes credibility, a friendly relationship or distant one. In the working group that was constructed, I learned that each delegate contributed differently to the success of our resolution. Some delegates were good at proliferating the information while others were efficient with formatting and delivering eloquent speeches. After attending several conferences, I have learned to find different ways communicate ideas but also appreciate and recognize the talent surrounding me and how that contributes to the "consensus" the United Nations looks for. The moment I'm proudest of, is when our group turned in our working paper



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and received feedback. The chair revised it and instructed us to fix minor details that had nothing to do with content or the organizations we had mentioned. It was wonderful to see that our group had successfully constructed a document that was accurate and reflected a wide range of perspectives. Another aspect, I'm proud of is to realize the majority of the states that didn't collaborate with our working paper, were open to supporting it, we found little opposition because we had all behaved with dignity and respectfully communicated our message whether through speeches or during unmoderated sessions.

An aspect I could improve for future conferences is the amount of time I spend contributing to a working paper. I was anxious to finish it and turn it and I think that pressure resulted in minor formatting errors. I also realized a lot of us that helped in the writing portion felt the same way, so there were many moments of stressful writing that could have been more passive. I think next time I have an opportunity to write, I will spend more time going over details rather than rushing to finalize it.

Every conference has told one or two truths about the world and about myself, as a somewhat experienced delegate this conference wasn't overwhelming with rules and things I didn't know; this conference was simply the General Assembly a council, it was familiar. The first day I was nervous to speak but that went away quickly. The general assembly was a familiar environment, where I was able appreciate and use all the knowledge I've gained from my professors. This conference helped me discover how much I've learned about politics, people and the world as a political science major. I will eternally be thankful for joining a major that has the potential to teach you so much about real life situations, as well as joining a team that has made me so aware of all the situations in the world. This conference fulfilled academically and in many personal aspects, the familiarity of the general assembly is something I would like continue to experience. As soon to be college graduate, I would like to pursue a career with organizations like the United Nations and other agencies that bring relief. I would have never reached this conclusion without the experience of the Model United Nations team. Furthermore this conference not only gave me the confidence to perform better than in the past but also clarified my priorities in coming the professional aspect of my life.



The most important things that I learned while participating in the Model United Nations conference in Seattle are primarily about the subtleties of practical diplomacy. The first thing that I learned was that, speaking frequently and confidently can lend credibility and authority to a candidate. Outside of the beginning hours of the conference, when delegates were establishing their positions publicly, I noticed that there were two kinds of delegates that spoke with frequency. There were candidates that repeated the same general spiel about their state's general position, citing resolutions and treaties loosely related to the topic at hand. I noticed that these repetitive types of speeches were quickly dismissed by the majority of the delegates and that this type of oration did not lend the delegate that gave the speech any credibility.

However there was another type of address to the committee. This second type of speech was equally frequent and often more general, but the content was pertinent to the content of the immediate issue at hand. For example, the delegate might talk about a current working paper, or call for cooperation between two parties. The large majority of these speeches did not provide any new information pertaining to the issue or the diplomatic situation. Nearly every time, when a delegate would get up and call for cooperation, everyone else in the room already knew that cooperation needed to occur; there was no new information being provided. However something about that public call would lend the speaking delegate additional credibility and authority with the chair and the delegate. The difference between these two different types of speeches, is that the first person seems like they don't care about the interaction, but care instead just about standing up and talking (Chico) while the second type of delegate is concerned with the current goings-on of the committee.

Until this conference, I believed that repetitive usage of the speakers list to repetitively provide information that was already known by the rest of delegates was a wast of time. I believed that I could make better use of my political capital during unmoderated caucus. However it is clear to me that there is political gain to be had at the conferences by playing a greater part in the speakers list. I believe that this can be attributed to the fact that, by publicly expressing yourself in a confident and genuine manner about what is currently happening in the committee. It shows that you are interested in what is going on, willing to take the lead and be at the forefront of the process, and are willing to interact with others.

This conference, I was most proud of the writing and negotiating that I did on the declaration part of the Post-2015 treaty. I and one other delegate put a ton of effort into coalescing the five different working papers that were submitted into what we thought the declaration should be. We did an excellent, comprehensive job, ensuring that it fit with the rest of the document and it was the first part submitted and unanimously accepted. I was proud of it because in it, we were able to focus on the issues that we (and our states) believed to be most important which sets the tone for the rest of the document.

Unfortunately, because of how our committee functioned we worked on that most of the time and had limited involvement in some of the other components of the final treaty. This meant that I was unable to be as comprehensive in my examination of the rest of the document. I was very frustrated with the limited time that we had in the committee. I felt that we did not have enough time to get everything done and nearly every product that the committee eventually submitted was rushed. I was proud of the excellent work that we did on the declaration, however the goals themselves, their implementation, and their review each held many failings predominantly due to the short timeframe for work and submission. We did not have the



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opportunity to read the different working papers until the actual voting block and thus did not have a realistic opportunity to submit amendments or even to read what they said. As a result, I saw several significant faults with the document after we had finished the voting.

Additionally, I was frustrated with short attention span of many of the delegates (excluding of course my excellent classmates). By the last day, the majority of the other delegates were no longer interested in working hard and putting out a good product. It frustrated me that people just stopped caring. In other more traditional committees that I have been in in the past, I have felt like this has been true but it was less pronounced. In past committees what has happened is that we have worked very hard on at least one or two issues all the way through and then as we moved to the final issue on the last day, the interest and attention of the delegates began to lag, but only after we had brought excellent products to completion in the first few days of the conference. Because in this committee we only worked on one overall product, I felt that we struggled to produce a quality product.

This conference taught me several things. First, while not overdoing it so as not to exhaust your political capital, it is important to maintain a constant and pertinent public presence on the speakers list in order to lend yourself additional credibility with the chair and the different delegations. Second, focus on what you think is most important, don't get sidetracked early on by something which will distract you from that. Lastly, try to get the important stuff done first and don't try and get people to work hard the last day.



Model UN

5/5/2016

### Spring 2016 Reflection Paper

Though this semester was very busy with Model UN conferences, policy papers, etc., I really enjoyed the opportunity to be able to learn from each conference and apply what I had learned to the following conferences. It was a very unique experience from the past couple semesters, having so many opportunities to improve and try new things: topics, committees, speeches etc. I think I was able to learn more, and apply more of what I have learned into these three conferences than any before, which is a great way to end my MUN experience.

I think one of the most beneficial things I learned this semester is the importance of establishing yourself as the point person, or one of the few, for the working paper. Usually I do this by creating the Google Doc and being the one to share it and have most of the access and power around it. I did this in Portland and immediately myself (and Allie and Kimberly) were at the center of the paper, being the main delegates for corrections and all substance to pass through. This was essential to our contribution of the paper and making sure it was something the entire body could agree on, however it was not super beneficial to making friends. There were a few delegates there who also wanted to be the point person of the paper, but since they weren't the primary editors of the document, they were a little hostile and aggressive about the situation. However, Allie and I addressed it directly and they seemed to get over it by the end of the conference.



If I were to change one thing about Portland, it would be to speak up a lot more. With this conference, I became very engaged in the writing process and only made a couple speeches. As much as I was engaged in the entire conference and working very hard, I can understand how it could come off as if I was not doing so, because to the judges it may have looked like I was sitting in the back on my laptop the whole time. I also think I would have been able to make better connections with the committee if I had spoken up more and made more speeches, besides just speaking to those states I didn't work with, only to ask them to read over the resolution. However, I also believe that delegating tasks based on skills among delegates is super important to the efficiency of the body. As much as I would have had a more impactful learning experience by speaking up more, I was able to use the skills I did have to write a resolution, while others in my working group used their skills, such as working the room and making speeches, to make us a very dynamic and effective team.

At the beginning of the semester, I set the goal for myself to win at least one individual award, which I didn't do, but looking back on it, I think I performed well and even if I didn't win an award, I improved as a delegate a lot this semester. I was hoping for a paper award in Portland and although I didn't win, I think I've made a lot of improvements on my papers since I first started MUN. However I do not feel like my Portland paper was as good as my Seattle paper, which did win an award, so I was able to take that to try and improve my policy papers for the other conferences.

In Santa Barbara, I tried to speak up a lot more and I found myself doing a lot more of the talking and the speeches than the writing. Because it is a much smaller conference, I felt more comfortable speaking up, and it was nice because I had Sebastian, Joey, Daniel, and Kelsey in



my committee and I knew they would always back me up. It was more challenging for me to do the writing in this body because instead of having multiple working groups, we had one large one, where the whole committee worked together. It was awesome to have consensus but it was also very overwhelming to try and write in such a big group. To work around it, I usually focused on a specific aspect of the resolution and would work on it by myself or with a few others, and then present it to the larger group when I was done. I felt this way the best way for me to work efficiently in this group, but ideally I would have liked to have been the primary editor of the paper as I was for Portland.

One unique struggle I faced in Santa Barbra, was representing France when there was a French exchange student also participating in the conference. She kept calling me out on things that weren't always related to the topic, so I tried to just remain professional and remind the body we were not there to discuss France's nuclear energy waste etc., because most of the time I had no idea what she was talking about and had no research to counter her statements. But she seemed to be pretty satisfied with most of my answers to her, so I'm hoping I played it off well enough.

I was also disappointed because I did not win an award in Santa Barbra either. I definitely spoke a lot at this conference, probably more than anyone else in my committee, so when I didn't win an award I started to question whether or not I should speak, because I was worried I came off as if I didn't know what I was talking about or I was unintelligent. But, speaking up definitely make me more comfortable with doing it in San Francisco, however I definitely did not speak as often as I did in Santa Barbra.



San Francisco was definitely my favorite conference this semester. I was in the Commission for Population and Development, which I was pleasantly surprised to find out was a pretty small committee. Like Portland, I was able to set myself as the point person of the paper and had a lot of influence, which I enjoyed. My committee got along really well and we managed to get through all three topics. I was nervous at first because I was by myself in the committee and it's nice to have someone you know there to lean on. However, I actually really enjoyed being by myself. I think when you have your teammate in committee with you, you want to see them do well so you feel obligated to make sure they are included in the resolutions, and you want to sign on to their resolutions, even though sometimes you shouldn't, because you want them to succeed. I liked not having that obligation to anyone and being able to fully immerse myself in the committee.

I found it difficult to represent Switzerland, as it is such a neutral state and there were situations where I found it hard to maintain the neutrality. For example, during a moderated a chair asked for a European representative to speak in favor of an initiative, I was the only European state to raise my placard and had to speak against multiple people who disagreed with me. I felt as Switzerland I shouldn't have been speaking so strongly in favor of an initiative, especially since the rest of Europe didn't help me out. However, speaking out in this situation helped further establish myself as one of the primary editors of the paper, and I was able to merge two very large papers together with just one other person. I was excited to be the one to merge as it meant I got the final say in the content, and I have never merged papers before.

Overall, I have learned a tremendous amount over these past four semesters in Model UN. I have really enjoyed my experience and have walked away a lot more knowledgeable of the





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international community and I have a lot more passion for international relations. It has definitely been one of the best experiences I have had in college and it has given me a lot of skills to use in the future. So thank you for dedicating yourselves to this team, I know it may not always seem like it, but we really do appreciate all the work you do for us!

Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

MUN Reflection

2 May 2016

Model United Nations was such an awesome experience that taught me more than what a formal class could teach. I never really paid much attention to the United Nations before participating in this class. The United Nations is literally the the governing body of the world maintaining peace and security. The body is tasked with creating international policy to address issues affecting the world and mankind. MUN taught me the importance of cooperation and how all decisions made impact everyone. Instead of looking at issues on an individual scale, we have to look at them on a global scale.

The Model United Nations allows students to learn about diplomacy, negotiations, and compromise. Usually, people stay within their comfort zones and continue what is normal for them. Participating in the conferences forces students to leave what they know, like their classmates, and work with students from other schools that are representing states from the same region as you. It was easy working with regional partners and reaching consensus on issues of importance to your voting bloc. The hard part is conducting negotiations with other regions



because not all groups are in line with your regional views. At times during conferences, negotiations were intense but ultimately a compromise was reached. I learned that you have to work at a systemic level instead of a domestic one because that's how resolutions get passed. The conferences emphasized the importance of cooperation in the international community because all countries are interdependent and policies impact every state. If you choose to create your own working paper with only your countries interests, other countries will vote against it and nothing gets passed.

I would say that I'm most proud of my involvement in the working paper at the San Francisco MUN. The General Assembly was tasked with addressing a high level event such as income inequality. Representing Botswana and speaking with members of the African Union, I suggested incorporating microloans to any working paper as it is a plausible solution for developing nations. I was able to incorporate a microloans clause into one of the working papers but some developed nations voted against the amendment at first. At the suspension of meeting I approached the countries who voted against it to see if there was any way we could reach a compromise to keep it. Most of the delegates were not familiar with microloans and some were opposed to loans in general but after explaining how they worked the amendment passed. I would say this is something I'm most proud of because I'm usually a passive person and try to avoid conflict of any sort. Countries tried to vote against this clause but I stood my ground by advocating and lobbying for its incorporation into the resolution.

Awaiting the first conference I wasn't sure what to expect. Throughout my winter break I was nervous and anxious because I had never done anything like MUN. During the NWMUN I wasn't sure how to act in committee. This was my first conference so I wasn't as engaged



because I didn't want to mess up on anything. Other delegates seemed well versed when they approached me with their countries policies and what they hoped the UN could do for their countries. I felt like at this conference I could've been better prepared on my countries policies. Although I wasn't as active as I could've been, this conference did prepare me for Westmun and MUNFW.

Since Westmun is a significantly smaller conference than MUNFW I felt comfortable speaking to the committee and being more vocal on issues. My fellow delegates and I worked to help newcomers get the hang of rules and procedures. Unfortunately, I encountered some problems working with other delegates. Another delegate was told she would be representing the same country as me but she was assigned a new country within minutes of the start of committee. This issue created friction between the both of us because she felt that I was not representing my country properly. All throughout committee I heard her talking and whispering to her classmates about me. I should have addressed the issue diplomatically by involving the chair but I chose not to and avoided that delegate and her classmates for most of the conference. I felt I was very engaged during this conference because I was constantly addressing the body, but I feel that the "girl drama" prevented us from coming to consensus. I should have handled it better than I did.

The first two conferences gave me the knowledge and experience to handle any situations the last conference might throw my way. I felt I was most productive during this conference because I was walking around gaining insight into what other countries had to say about the issues. I took notes and categorized them into broader concepts and molded ideas together to create clauses that most were on board with. I did not prepare a speech and tried to look only at



my notes but I got tongue twisted because the committee was bigger. I raised my placard not thinking I would get called on so I wasn't as prepared to give my speech as I should've been and to me it sounded like rambling.

With the exception of the first night, the duration of this conference I spent most of my time associating with only members of the African Union. Instead of discussing with my regional bloc I could've walked around to other groups and promoted the issues concerning the African states. We mainly focused on creating clauses to merge with other working papers but it would've been effective if members from our group separated and acted as salesmen to other groups. This conference I stayed mainly behind the scenes working on working papers and I could've been more vocal in addressing the committee as a whole than only individual member states.

The conferences have helped me with my public speaking skills because I used to be the student that had to prepare speeches in advance and when presenting them, I always just read directly from my card or paper. Going through the conferences, I've noticed some delegates had some well written speeches while others including myself, not so much. I use to hate presentation and public speaking because I never felt confident and after having to address a MUN body several times over the course of the semester, public speaking and speeches are not as daunting. I learned a lot of valuable experiences from joining MUN. First, I did something that was way out of my comfort zone and I feel like that's spilled over into my every day life. I'm not as nervous about doing stuff I haven't done before. The MUN experience has made me confident in speaking to people I don't know. Advocating on behalf of my countries has enhanced my debating skills. I used to be a passive person but now I speak up and point out



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things that I used to just let go for the sake of avoiding conflict. The whole experience has given me empowerment. Before MUN I was afraid of trying things because I was afraid of the “new” and now I feel like I’m able to do things because of what a great experience I had trying this out.

Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl, I sincerely want to thank you both for allowing me to be part of this amazing experience. Although it was not easy, it was a life changing experience for me.

POLS 427  
Model UN

### **Reflection Paper**

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

The most important thing that I learned this spring semester by participating in Model United Nations is learning how to maneuver through different working groups and learning how to then change the language that I used to get my point across. In past conferences my committees had not been as large and thus I had more time to explain what my resolution entailed and did this with everyone on a one on one basis. However, the conference for San Francisco the committee was around 70 individuals. As a result, I had to talk to individuals in groups in order to get my ideas that were represented in my resolution. As I went around the



room to discuss what I wanted to get addressed I noticed that I had to alter the language I used depending on the region where the working group was located. Meaning that, for the Latin America working group I had to be more detailed and use no specific words that would detail exactly how certain implementation of operatives would occur. Yet, for the European working group there was no questions asked and I did not have to repeat myself. Noting this is important for diplomacy and just basic working skills. This will aid in my professional development because in the working area, learning how to tailor your language to different audiences in order to properly get your ideas across whether it be like in my case where it was interaction with 10-20 individuals or big groups as when I would go up to speak during moderated sessions. Also, participating in this MUN conference helped my skills in writing, researching, debating and communicating. MUN conferences have various components to them, its not simply writing the policy papers. The amount of work that goes into these policy papers alone can be attributed as to work for two classes. Policy papers have key features that distinguish them from any other academic work; the format is very specific as well as the information that can be mention in the paper. Finding the information takes dedication and time. Varying from topic and the country that gets assigned the workload can vary but it still nonetheless takes effort. Researching and finding credible sources also can become a problem depending on how influential the country is. However, at times the country can have too much information that becomes overwhelming when putting the information onto the paper. With this in mind, having only two pages to write about topics that can actually be a ten-page paper on its own becomes very difficult. Participating in MUN has provided me with the skills necessary to condense information into the page limit while still at the same time providing the reader with valuable work.



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2. What are you most proud of?

I am most proud of being able to write a resolution, when at the beginning of my journey with Model United Nations I had no idea how to write one but most importantly the Model United Nations team gave me the opportunity to feel like I was part of Channel Islands. Being a commuter student it's extremely difficult to feel incorporated into the university since your there simply for class. So, joining the team was something I had been hesitant to do because I wasn't sure if Channel Islands was the right school for me. I gave it a chance and has completely changed my academic and personal life. The research that goes into prepping for these conferences can be overwhelming and time consuming sometimes taking up to two or three weeks but the outcomes of these conferences are qualities that will last beyond my academic years. I have gained many interpersonal skills that I would have not been able to gain with just attending a class. This has also become the people who I pass time with outside of school, something that I don't think any other class is able to really do. So, what I'm most proud of is giving myself the opportunity to join this team because if I had not done so my experience with Channel Islands would be very different.

3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.

One skill that I could have done better is being able to multitask under pressure. Becoming immensely involved in trying to get our resolution to be written during the time frame given to us was important to getting it passed however, I would go up to speak about our resolution then quickly being to work on it again with the rest of our group. It was the lack of time that also played time into this event. Even though the conferences were for long days that is still not



enough time to formulate an adequate paper and thus the whole delegation room was in frenzy quickly trying to write a paper that encompassed the whole international community but at the same time addressed the problem at hand. It was immensely important to go and discuss with other groups what your groups' resolution encompassed in order to get support and thus have it passed. Delegates were thus doing many tasks at once; writing papers, speaking to the other delegations and working groups and gaining support for their papers all at once. This experience however has further enhanced my skills at multi-tasking at the same time. I was under the notion that I was very capable of multitasking before we went off to Portland and Santa Barbara, yet working under such pressure further tested my skills in ways that no other class will ever be able to do so. This pressure was necessary for my own personal growth in that I was able to realize where my strong points lacked and then could build upon them in order to become better in the areas that I was not as great in.

4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

These experiences have taught me how to have patience and keep calm during situations that call for everything but that. Pressure to get resolutions done and dealing with different characters and personalities for several days can become overwhelming especially when you've been working on a paper for two or three days and have dedicated hard work, and then have it stalled by individuals in the committee. Situations as such can be very irritating but patience is key.

Without having patience the situation can quickly spiral out of control. Also these conferences have given me the qualities I need to be able to deal with a wide variety of individuals. This is essential to the work I do beyond my academic work, it will aid in my professional work, as dealing with different personalities is needed in any type of work. These conferences also taught





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me that having good interpersonal skills is ideal to having good relations with other delegates.

This is also key to success at the conferences and after in my professional development.

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**Reflection Paper**

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



Participating in the Model United Nations tournaments provided me with a great opportunity to learn a lot about states that I did not know a lot about or never would know about. While I joked a lot about being cursed or stuck in Africa, I am very happy to say that I learned about Africa and Turkey as well. In regards to international relations, I learned how hard it can be for African least developed states, that most people don't know even existed, to work within the international community. When I wasn't in Africa I was Turkey, which also isn't a 'good' country to be when talking about issues in the middle east and the world. So because of this, diplomacy and negotiations became key for me. I learned while participating here that I am not a very good negotiator or very diplomatic. When it came to negotiating, a lot of the delegates liked to add fluff and put on a show while I didn't like to do that. It seems like to me, that all I wanted to do was get down to the nitty-gritty and actually figure out people's positions, if they were going to be a waste of my time or an asset, and just write papers that would actually be effective. Maybe I only had this mentality because I was never a powerful or important state, but that is how I worked when negotiating with other states. I guess I'm very to-the-point. As for diplomacy, I knew that MUN was a conference and I wanted to have a good time. I cracked jokes with Africa and I believed that if I could connect with other delegates on a personal level, working with them would be easier, which it was. However, the chairs didn't always believe that to be my intentions and I guess that they never understand my tactics.

## 2. What are you most proud of?

As for what I am most proud of while participating in MUN, this may seem conceded even though I mean this with pure intentions, but I am very proud of myself. Coming back to my



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room every night thinking about the resolutions and the work that we were doing always made me very happy. This idea that groups of us were able to come together and actually make a theoretical difference was nice. In addition to my contributions on the resolutions, I am very proud of my work in most of the conferences I attended. To be honest, I was burnt out in San Francisco and very unhappy with my status in that committee, but the other three before were great. The craziest moment was in Santa Barbara where the GA's chair had to step aside to read over paper and the committee elected me to chair the entire committee in his absence. I guess I had made a real impact and shown that I actually knew what I was doing and talking about for people to vote for me. And to make this more legit, I know it just wasn't the CI students in the committee who voted for me because others were nominated to chair as well. I am very proud of my actions and impact that you could say, and I would agree, that I am bitter that I didn't win any awards during my time in MUN. From leader of the African Union in Seattle to honorary voted-in chair in Santa Barbara, I thought I really had a chance and I was very upset that it didn't work out, but I guess the cards just didn't line up. That is something that I'm not proud of on the outside, but kind of am on the inside.

3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.

At each conference this semester I really tried to be a different person and have a different strong point. First, when I look at MUN, I also think about Seattle where I didn't write very much and spoke and advocated a lot. When Portland came around I decided to change it up a little bit. While I was Ghana in Portland, I tried to focus more on the writing and not as much

the formal speaking. In Portland, I wish I had made more waves in the committee and been a bigger player on the outside than just on the side writing team. While at Westmun, I decided to take what I had learned in Seattle and Portland and combine to two. I spoke a lot and wrote a lot. I sat right in the middle of the committee and everyone knew who I was. I even worked with different blocks for each topic: the EU, NATO, and finally the Middle East. To be 100% honest, I don't know what I could have done more than be more diplomatic. I had some issues with the delegate from Syria (since I was Turkey). That's the only thing that I think could have really improved my chances of doing better. In San Francisco, like I said before, I was very burnt out. There was a lot I could have done more. I could have spoken more and written more and I will take responsibility for not doing more. However, I will also admit that I felt out of place in the committee. Regardless of how much more I could have done, I did try and I did work hard on my resolutions and gave my all to the committee. There just wasn't a lot left to give after all the past committees and committee drama.

#### 4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

I have already talked a little bit about what these experiences taught me about myself. Again, I learned while participating here that I am not a very good negotiator or very diplomatic. When it came to negotiating, a lot of the delegates liked to add fluff and put on a show while I didn't like to do that. It seems like to me, that all I wanted to do was get down to the nitty-gritty and actually figure out people's positions, if they were going to be a waste of my time or an asset, and just write papers that would actually be effective. Maybe I only had this mentality because I was never a powerful or important state, but that is how I worked when negotiating



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with other states. I guess I'm very to-the-point. I also learned that the way I carry and portray myself as a normal human being effects how people view me in committee. What I mean by this is that it was very clear to me in San Francisco that while I act like I don't care about a lot of thing in my everyday life, people seem to think that that transfers over in my school and work life which isn't true. I like to just shut off and relax when I'm not stressed in the moment and I like to live in the moment. Sometimes, I think it is hard for people to figure out which mode I am in at the time. So I guess I can be more clear in my words and actions in order to make that distinction clearer for others.

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**Reflection Paper**



This semester has been a challenging, but rewarding semester for me in regards to improving in this course. I enrolled, knowing that three conferences were going to be difficult to balance but this did not stop me from pushing towards new and different committees. Once I learned Portland was offering the human rights council, I was very encouraged to be a part of it, even though I knew it would be challenging to learn a completely new committee. Also, learning that Australia would be reviewed, I was really motivated to take the challenge, believing that it would help me become more comfortable speaking on the spot in front of the committee. With Santa Barbara, I was also motivated to participate in the Security Council, realizing it would be an excellent learning opportunity if I were to pursue these high committees later on in the future. Finally, with San Francisco, I was excited to see that a General Assembly committee reviewed human rights issues and was encouraged by the fact that Chile was a front runner in the first topic, Social Development, and the second topic, Gender Equality. I therefore chose these committees and states, hoping to put myself in places of influence and power to hopefully encourage me to feel more confident in diplomacy.

For Portland, it was an interesting perspective to be the country being reviewed. It was a little disappointing to learn how little influence the United Nations truly has over member states. Looking through previous universal periodic reviews of Australia, I noticed that if they were opposed to changing a certain aspect of their society, no number of recommendations could change their mind. Australia still had the right to deny these recommendation or accept and never truly implement. This committee took so much energy but by the end of it, all that was created were recommendations that Australia “promised” to implement but, only by what seemed to be symbolic means. This was especially relevant with refugee and asylum seeker rights in Australia.



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Australia refused to even mention their policies on these issues, stating it was the state's sovereign right to protect their populations on the main island and that their policies were confidential to other states. Therefore, even though recommendations were made, Australia refused to support them. Additionally, recommendations were put forward to improve conditions to the already existing refugee camps. These were highly controversial because although Australia has stated they would accept these recommendations, they only promised to "review" them and never ensured that these would be implemented in the future. Therefore, it was a frustrating process because it seemed like nothing was truly solved at the end of it. I feel like this is relevant to most committees. For example, while on the 3<sup>rd</sup> GA, in nearly every clause, the importance of respecting national sovereignty and paralleling national legislative by focusing on community-led programs was outlined to gain support from the larger body. It was frustrating to have to repeat over and over again that everything written in the document is merely recommendations that a state has no legal binding to implement or support. This was very relevant in the GA committee because for our first topic, gender equality, we were pushed by our chairs to create one universal agreed upon resolution. This was especially difficult because Middle Eastern, Muslim led states had very different ideology when it came to women's rights than African and Latin states did. Additionally, these less-developed states had very differing views than European and developed states. In order to create one resolution, the wording of the resolutions was so broad and so "universal" that our committee wondered if it was actually helping the global population in significant means. It made me wonder if the United Nations is serving the purpose it was created to do in the most efficient way. For the Security Council, I learned how in some situations, you have to be manipulative to get your way, which can be seen



as a negative aspect of politics and diplomacy, but I found to be required in certain situations.

We had a day on a resolution that every seemed to be motivated to pass, everyone except for the Russian Federation. Because he had the ability to veto, our committee had to find alternate routes to force him into voting for the paper. It ended up working in our benefit but we felt bad at the end, feeling a little guilty that we had tied his hands and forced him into agreeing to a document he was unsupportive of. This committee also really showed me how important wording was. The reason the Russian Federation would not support the document was because of one word. He was willing to scratch the entire document because of one word in one clause. But that word was very important to France and other countries so even changing that one word was not something we would willingly give in for.

I am proud that I can tell I became more confident in regards to diplomacy and public speaking. Last semester, one of the things I noted as something I needed to work on was speaking on the spot, without writing every individual speech and reading off paper or my computer. I found myself forced in this position in Portland, once because my computer had shut off the moment I stood in front of the committee to speak, and then later, throughout the committee and my review, when I was required to quickly respond to everyone's comments. I also had to be more comfortable and confident speaking to everyone in my committee since everyone was bringing Australia recommendations that I then had to discuss with them and reach to a consensus. For the Security Council, although I had written opening statements, I found myself talking throughout the whole conference without written speeches in front of me. This was mainly because the committee membership was only 10 members and therefore, everyone had to talk a lot, on last minute notice. I therefore began getting comfortable with speaking on





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the top of my head, and found myself more confident with diplomatic speech. I was really proud of my efforts in San Francisco also, being the head delegate for the first resolution and being one of the head delegates for the second resolution. I was put in a position where, instead of merely controlling the laptop and wording/editing the resolutions, I was also negotiating with individuals from different blocs, working towards merging our resolutions together. When the chair asked for the leaders of each bloc to separate from the rest of the committee and negotiate in private, I was proud to be one of those individuals included in the talks. When people had questions, they came to me, and I was able to represent many different blocs in this one resolution. I was also really proud because I pushed the wording of “female genital mutilation” and “early, forced, and childhood marriages” to remain in the resolution, as defined by the SDGs. This led to a lot of opposition from the Muslim states, which was frustrating because technically they had agreed to this wording when they agreed to the SDGs. Either way, despite their criticisms and concerns, the resolution was passed with the wording as I had fought for. Another aspect I was proud of was that I found myself using previous knowledge of other committees. This was seen in San Francisco, when I was working on the resolution regarding freedom of religion. A clause had regarded the financing of terrorists. This was a concern for Middle Eastern state, and we were faced with how to word “terrorism”. I had prior knowledge of negotiating these same concerns in the Security Council as France and therefore, I proposed to change the word “terrorists” to “violent non-state actors”. This was then agreed upon, even by the Middle Eastern states. On a personal level, I was also proud that I was motivated to participate in the more challenging committees and I feel like I represented them appropriately. I



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was proud of the awards I had received at each conference, and felt encouraged that I did learn a lot this semester, despite the challenges.

Although I had a lot of improvements in these conferences, there are also aspects of diplomacy I feel I need to continue improving on. For Portland, it was hard for me to remain motivated throughout of the conference because I was sick. I feel like, if I am looking into a future in similar fields, I need to learn how to remain motivated despite the curveballs life throws at you. I found myself not wanting to participate in the first reviews since I could not vote or write any of the clauses. Although it sucked that I couldn't participate as a voting member, I feel I should have still been motivated to do as much as I possibly could towards the committee. It was just a disappointing feelings to write all these clauses and have to put someone else's name on it because I couldn't participate. And although I have improved in regards to speaking, I feel like I still need to work towards improving this aspect. Although my confidence was built more than last semester, I still found myself stumbling around words. I still wrote my opening statements and feel this is something I can also try to speak on without reading. I was complimented for my opening statements as France for the Security Council but I had written my speeches out and feel I would have been more proud if I could have spoken freely instead of relying on previously written statements. With San Francisco, I also feel that it was hard for me to step away from the resolution writing and actually walk around to negotiate with other people. I enjoy being the writer and editor and feel like the people merely relaying information are not impacting the actual resolution. I felt like I knew the resolution front to back because it was all my words, whereas the people seen as "leaders" were merely negotiating small aspects of the written paper. Although I did force myself to negotiate with other blocs, especially when



merging, I feel like I need to build more confidence. I need to realize that sometimes the leaders are the front with the followers being the writers. This is something I need to work on internally, since I feel more comfortable as a writer.

This semester has only reaffirmed that I love the field of international relations and diplomacy. I realized that if I put my mind to it, I can participate in challenging committees as influential delegations and still be proud with the work I achieved during each of the conferences. At the beginning of the semester, I wanted to be in the Human Rights council but I almost put a different committee, feeling that maybe I wasn't the best student to be in this new and challenging committee. Once deciding to go for the committee, I also found myself wanting to ask for India or Ghana, even though I wanted Australia, because I knew that Australia would have an influential role and I didn't believe I could adequately represent that influence. It took a lot of encouragement from others to put that I wanted Australia Human Rights as my top choice, but I was nearly certain I wouldn't be given this position. I was happily surprised I received my choice and personally felt that I needed to prove I deserved that spot. I researched this state so much that I joked to my family that I could probably take their citizenship test and pass. I therefore learned that if I am motivated to succeeding, no matter the challenge, I will make sure I go into that situation with confidence. I also realized how much I truly love research. The page limit was always so hard for me because I found myself wanting to write huge reports of all the information I would find on each topic and country. I was always excited to begin researching and would continue even after the papers were due. It gives me confidence that I am in the right field, feeling more confident and motivated in writing political based research papers than experimental based psychology papers. I also really began to see my capabilities as a leader. I



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feel like my leadership qualities obviously weren't as prominent and maybe as shown as they could have, being something I've noted as needing improvement, but what did peek out truly surprised and inspired me. Being very vocal and influential in every committee I participated in and being a leader in every resolution passed was something that motivated me to continue portraying leadership qualities throughout the conferences.

Overall, this semester was the most difficult semester I've had to go through at my time here at CI. Despite this, and despite knowing it would be difficult, I found myself still motivated to welcome every challenge and opportunity for growth and development. I am proud with the achievements made and feel motivated to continue improving my leadership and diplomacy next semester.



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### Reflection Paper

Participating in Model United Nations has been an extreme learning experience. The class was especially challenging only have taken a few classes on international studies. Although the experience was difficult it is something I have decided to do again, the positives far outweigh the negatives. Participating in these conferences has not only helped me gain more confidence while public speaking in class during presentations it has also helped me gain information about the United Nations. The plethora of information that delegates are to know about their specific state gives me such a high appreciation for the actual diplomats within the United Nations. Learning to be diplomatic and hearing out what others have to say is vital to coming to a compromise. Although there were many times when I personally was frustrated with a state there is typically a solution that can meet half way. Coming from America I believe Model United Nations is very difficult because we are grown to believe in democratic society and a capitalist economic system that much of the world does not model. The process of representing a country that may not align with your personal views gives a whole new perspective to the world. Although world views vary and can be very strange to another, the United Nations has managed to come up with the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 that all states have signed onto. The international community is working hard for the future generations to be able to prosper in a very volatile world.



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There were two moments where I felt extremely proud, first was when I finally spoke up about the incorrect and inappropriate language that the state of Saudi Arabia was using. Declaring that genital mutilation within Saudi Arabia is a common practice that women are proud of, was proof that the delegate did not do the necessary research to be speaking about this topic in particular. Using correct terminology such a female circumcision would have been more appropriate and the wide practice of this practice in this country is false, many of these women are fleeing from African countries where the practice is common. The second time I felt proud was also during the San Francisco conference when all of our delegations won an award. Everyone in the class worked extremely hard and although just a piece of paper it means more after sitting in a room for twelve hours.

North West Model United Nations was extremely difficult because I got so sick. Ending up with the flu and a sinus infection, there was not much I could do at this conference. Sadly, this had to be my first experience, which left me with very little experience. West Model United Nations was a really positive experience for myself. Looking back at the size of the conference I wish I would have been on the speakers list more than twice. This conference was my first real experience it was nice because it was more relaxed and getting comfortable with my committee was much easier compared to San Francisco. Santa Barbara helped prepare me majorly for San Francisco many people had absolutely no experience. Not having any experience makes you an easy target and it is hard for many people to stand their ground when needed. Another problem was that many veterans from other school were not patient with new comers and usually took control, therefore as a small state and as typically poor states I had to learn to speak up. Model United Nations of the Far West was by far the best experience. Although my paper is where I felt



that I needed more guidance. Although I was disappointed by my paper, I knew enough about my state that I was able to participate. This conference was difficult and was the most challenging dealing with every different bloc. The Dias also requested a merged paper that made resolution writing that much more complicated. Even when extremely frustrated Botswana and Malawi really fought for the African bloc's needs within the resolution. Most of our working paper was used in the first resolution. The next topic had two resolutions that passed the topic of freedom of religion is touchy. Finally, at San Francisco again I wish that I had spoken sooner than I had. It's very nerve wracking to actually be participating but overcoming the fears of speaking in front of peers and professors is a really great skill.

These three adventures have taught me many things about myself. I realize that sometimes I'm not very diplomatic and that I need to step back and hear the other side of the argument. Basically learning diplomacy was an entirely new skill in relation to politics. The second thing I realized is that I'm still pretty young at heart and really would like my mom when I'm sick. Learning so much about the UN and the General Assembly more specifically, has allowed me to see really in depth how important international relations is for our country and many others. All the keynote speakers were extremely inspirational, Jessica Buchietiner was an absolutely amazing speaker. Her speech opened up my mind to the possibilities of getting involved with non-governmental organizations.

Model United nations has been an overall great experience due to the excellent help from members such as Shanel, Maria, Sebastian, and many others I look forward to working with the team again next year and to continue expanding my knowledge of the United Nations. At times it was difficult and overwhelming but the experience and learning how to work with people is a



reality check. It is not always going to be easy working with peers but in order to benefit whatever task is at hand all people have to be willing to compromise. Without any compromise we end up in deadlock and this is seen today in our very own government. So learning the importance of diplomacy and what it means to our society is to the utmost importance.

5 May 2016

### **Reflection Paper**

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

I learned several things as a participant in the Model United Nations class and conferences this semester. The main thing that I learned about was in regards to skills in diplomacy and negotiation. I had the opportunity to be in several significantly different environments across the three conferences this semester. In each situation I was in, I was in a significantly different position, as my state, in regards to the influence I held and in regards to the negotiating power that I possessed.

The most striking lessons I learned were in Portland, when I was Australia in the Security Council. This was a very interesting experience for me in a variety of ways. First because, it was the Security Council, and differed significantly from all of the other committees which I have been a part of. Second, because of my role in the Security Council. Because I was Australia, I did not hold one of the five veto and thus was comparatively lower on the totem pole compared





to the five veto powers. I understood this position going into the conference, and my goal was to maintain a role of mediator. I knew that, traditionally, the veto embers often split into two separate blocks over certain controversial issues. I wanted to try to help act as a mediator between the two blocks.

However there was an issue with plan. In the Security Council, the delegates for the United States, the United Kingdom and France were very experienced and particularly strong orators. On the other the hand, the Delegate from Russia was a stand in for the original delegate and it was here first time at a a MUN conference, and the delegate from China was a little bit of a wild card. Because of this political situation within the Security Council, much of the discussions and actions effectively lined up with the United State's and Western Europe's positions. Instead of the voting blocks lining up as the normative, East v. West, the voting blocks ended up being, for the most part, veto v. non-veto. As a practical matter, the states without veto power tried to achieve action, while making enough concession to the veto powers to ensure that nothing was vetoed.

This situation was very frustrating for me. I felt that I had a very weak point from which to negotiate and felt that I had a very difficult time achieving my goals in the resolutions. I had to learn how to deal with this situation. My eventual solutions were to first, attach my ideas to those of a greater power, and second to effect minute change. For example, several times, I participated in the drafting of resolutions with the United States, France and the United Kingdom. This allowed me to insert some of my own agenda. Additionally, if there were aspects that I found distasteful, I would try to mitigate them by encouraging the use of weaker



language in the resolution. What I had to learn in Portland was how to get something done when I am in a weak negotiating position.

## **2. What are you most proud of?**

One of the things about which I am most proud is how effective and professional the entire class was. This was really solidified for me in Santa Barbara and San Francisco because in each of those conferences I had classmates in my committees. In Santa Barbara, I was impressed with how the CSU Channel Islands Students governed much of what the discussion took place around. I was particularly impressed with Sebastian's ability to direct conversation about a topic. In San Francisco, I was with Kim and Andrew in Second Committee. I was impressed with how we did there, because we were very good about supporting one another, not necessarily in the happenings of the committee, but in taking care of one another, making sure that everybody had the support they needed. Additionally, I was proud of my classmates in both committees for being able to act independent. In both committees, the Channel Islands students did not automatically group together to work on a resolution. Sometimes we worked together, when appropriate, and sometimes we did not. We were each prepared and knew the positions of our respective states and so were not reliant on the crutch of friends and teammates to pursue our diplomatic objectives. I was proud of our independence and ability to work with the schools in these conferences.

## **3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.**



I could have done a better job leading the discussion in Portland. I played mostly a reactive role in the Security Council there, for the most part, hooking myself to a particular block for the issue, writing resolutions, and responding to ideas after they had been developed instead of participating in their development. This is something that I could have done way better in despite my comparative lack of tangible power in the Security Council. The delegate from South Korea did a really good job of this and I respected her greatly for it. Part of the reason for this was a certain lack of physical mobility due to injury, however I could have done much better in this area.

In San Francisco, I could have done a much better job maintaining my cool. There was lots of drama in my committee, both with the chair and with the delegates. This made me mad. I was not happy at how people were being treated and I was not happy about how much of the staff of the event was handling it. I did not lose my temper however I was visibly frustrated. As a result, I was less amiable, not as approachable, and not as motivated to approach other delegates in regards to the issues about which we were speaking. As a result, with the second and final agenda item, I spent much more time critiquing existing ideas and speaking out against certain ideas that contributing to the writing and diplomacy as I had in the first issue.

#### **4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?**

These experiences taught me several things. First, I need to be more capable in negotiation and diplomacy from different positions than I am used to. It is unlikely that I will always find myself in a position of power every time I enter into a negotiation. Second I learned that it is good to have a team of people to be around and support you, but also that it is important



that I not rely on them too heavily and thus compromise my independence. Lastly, I learned that I need to be more proactive in order to achieve my objectives, regardless of my political position or the environment around me.

Pols 427

Dr. Grove & Dr. Scholl

#### Model United Nations Spring 2016

Even though this semester was jam packed full with three conferences, I am thankful that I was able to join for this specific semester because of the ample amount of information that I have learned from these conferences. All three conferences were starkly different than each other in the environment where I learned the strategies yet strangely alike in what I learned about them. The conferences provided lessons and practice in similar skills that are key in international relations such as diplomacy, democracy, respect and cultural relativism. Each conference enlightened me on the entire process and complexity of the United Nations body. The committees discuss such a widespread range of topics and crises that the international



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community attempts to respond to. I realized how demanding and strenuous it is to be a diplomat. There are two complex aspects to being a diplomat; number one is that it is extremely demanding to be able to accurately represent an entire nation of people. The second aspect of being a diplomat is the ability to compromise with other states that have different views and cultural traditions than your own. This task is easier said than done. It is completely understandable that it is hard for 60 (in our committee, but 193 in the actual general assembly) countries, with billions of people governed under different types of government, to come to a consensus. However in Portland, Santa Barbara, and one of the San Francisco resolutions we were able to find consensus through diplomatic conversations and negotiations. Diplomats endure long, hard days representing the reality of the world and they definitely receive my respect because their job is no easy task. As an American, I will never be able to represent a state like a natural born citizen could. However, even a small amount of understanding between countries is better than no relations at all.

I am proud that I was able to be a part of a team that represents such a crucial international organization. I am proud that I was able to represent Serbia, New Zealand, and Switzerland by pushing policies that favored their specific governments. Representing specific countries gives the delegation the unique insight into cultures other than their own. Of course it was very rewarding at the end of each conference to go into voting block on resolutions and amendments. There was a pure sense of happiness in the room when we clapped for a passed resolution. These conferences help to maintain hope in the world. If diplomats from 193 countries can come together, discuss something, and come to a majority or consensus that is truly astonishing. One takeaway at the end of this learning process is being able to see the complexity



and diversity that this world contains. It is easy to be stuck in the bubble of your community, town or country while an entire world is just a few hours away. The United Nations inspired me to further a life path that includes international relations.

In North West Model United Nations, as a delegate I could have spoken up more and been more bold. However, it was the first conference and particularly intimidating. Yet, as the conference continued the atmosphere became more comfortable and I was able to talk with other states to coalesce together. West Model United Nations was the most personal conference in which I felt most comfortable. Since our committee was small, it was a easier to debate and compromise within working papers and resolutions. As a delegate, I felt most prepared with the correct information while representing Switzerland in Model United Nations of the Far West. However, it was intimidating to speak in front of the body when they had free range of questions to ask you at the end of the speech time. Even though speaking has been intimidating throughout this whole process, I feel better about speaking in other public situations already. Additionally, I expanded my vocabulary and my political language attending all three conferences while debating with other delegates. In all three conferences, the Dias was influential on my learning experience. Especially in San Francisco, the Dias were considerate and inspirational because they were so diplomatic and professional. Even the simple procedural tasks that are taken within the general assembly that taught me so much about how the body functions, as a very structural and formal aspect of the organization.

All of the amazing key-note speakers that spoke about non-governmental organizations truly inspired me to consider a similar option possibly in a international organization. These



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conferences confirmed my love for international relations and learning about varying cultures within states.

### **MUN Reflection Paper (Spring 2016)**

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

The experiences I had in class were able to help me with aspects of negotiations and diplomacy that I used while in committee. On a personal level I learned about negotiations and how to have diplomatic relations just among my teammates alone. The class is very representative of the committee/Model UN experience in that there will be differing opinions on different topics, good and bad relations, and ultimately a conclusion that we all hope to reach with consensus. I learned that there has to be give and take which I could then apply to the work



I did within committees and other delegates. Through all of my conference experiences of Model UN from when I started to now, I have learned that the people in my committees are not as scary as I thought they were when I first started. Despite have a clearer understanding of the given topics based on the work we do for our positions papers, I was able to not only have the ability to stand up and confront people but to also have the ability to do so in a diplomatic way as this would most likely get better results than telling someone they have bad information or ideas. From my own experiences/reality of being an extremely petty person, if I had a bad experience with someone I would be angry at them for the entire conference (and even at other conferences if I saw them there) which would not help to achieve the conference goal of gaining consensus. Still being a petty person, I now know how to work around personal issues at least for conference purposes to get quality work produced despite my own personal feelings toward that person. Putting this all in perspective, I can only imagine what actual diplomats go through. While I get angry at someone for little reasons, real diplomats have to work with people who represent nations that have done actual damage to their own state and to their own people. Basically if I were a diplomat I would not get any work done so it is always an interesting reflection experience when answering these questions.

## **2. What are you most proud of?**

When I reflect on the experience of being on this team not only this semester but for all five semesters I have been here, I can tell how I have truly grown as a person. I came into Model UN at probably the worst time of my life. I was depressed and had anxiety issues and ultimately applied for the team not only because I was interested in the topic/wanted to challenge myself but because I wanted/needed to make friends. I thought Model UN would help me get over being nervous before public speeches but it admittedly did not because I am just a constantly





anxious person. Instead it gave me a team that I could share my nerves with and teammates who would tell me that they were just as nervous which made me not feel crazy or alone. I do not always need to be as stoic as I try (or at least wish) to be but instead I can actually allow myself to be emotional about things. If I am angry, I have teammates who will listen to my frustrations. If I am upset or sad, I have teammates that will genuinely hear me out and will empathize with me. Not only did this give me a much needed support system among people who could genuinely understand the trials that come with the Model UN experience, but it also gave me the ability to actually trust and open up to people who had no hesitation in helping me whenever I needed support. With my own personal issues constantly at the back of my mind I was able to speak in very public forums, make connections with people on the team, and produce good work. Despite not winning any awards I can say that I got what I wanted from this experience. I was able to overcome emotional issues and an anxiety disorder and create work and results that I was proud of even if they did not meet the standards of others which was more than enough for me. This semester was probably the most trying one for the team for a number of reasons. Even with these various challenges I was proud of the team and its ability to find support within itself and to boost one another up when we were all at our lowest. We could share our disappointments, our anger, and our jokes with one another and create a connection that I cannot imagine being recreated in any other scenario or experience.

**3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.**

At NWMUN I was particularly frustrated because of the committee I was in (the Universal Period Review one) and how it was run. I did not enjoy the experience because this particular committee was strange if you were not a nation under review or at least a more



influential/well-known nation like the United States. I believe I did the best work possible in this committee given the circumstances but I would have preferred to not have let myself become as discouraged as I did by just the first committee session. Honestly if I could do this conference again I would have picked any other committee and besides that there is very little I could have changed. For Westmun I was very happy with the committee I was in because I had the best chair ever (and our Turkey and Maldives were pretty great too). This was probably the conference I liked best because of the good company. In terms of the work I did I was happy with my ability to give decent, improvised speeches without writing a single one out beforehand. As for improvements, I again could have prevented the bad vibes in the room from affecting my own mood. Because this committee is very beginner based, there was an odd mix of people who were genuinely trying/doing good work and people who were saying how much they wanted to go home which made me not want to work with them. I could have accepted the reality of the situation and gone with the flow rather than being annoyed with my fellow delegates. As for MUNFW, I could have gained the courage to tell my voting bloc that what they were talking about really had nothing to do with the issue at hand/with the FAO or its capabilities but instead I found a happy medium where I just worked with a different bloc which still gave me the chance to contribute the information I wanted (and we ended up merging with my original group anyway) so overall it worked out and was a good ending experience.

#### **4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?**

These experiences taught me that I am a better leader than I ever thought I would make. As someone who has been in Model UN for multiple semesters, I was able to use my own experiences to help people with work done within committees and with written work/papers before the semester had even started. I was more than happy to give help and I was honored that



people took me up on the offer. This leads into my next personal lesson - I learned that I am humble and genuine. I do not care if my help was noticed or acknowledged because that was not why I offered it to others in the first place. I wanted the conference experience to go as smoothly as possible because I remember being completely lost during my own first conference and I did not want anyone feel like they did not belong to the team just as I did. This experience also taught me (in a weird way) that I actually was meant to be a history major which I will explain. Pretty much every semester since joining Model UN I wanted to drop my history major because I thought I hated it and that I liked political science instead. Instead, the variety of nations that I was able to represent gave me more exposure to the world and to the actual history of these nations that finally convinced me that, yes, I did actually like history which gave me the strength to actually finish two majors. Because of the research I did in Model UN, I learned what my actual interests are which gave me the tools and exposure I needed to look further into different topics. Now that I am graduating, I do admittedly have that lingering wonder of what I will do with my life and what my future will look now but I still do not feel as lost as I did before. Now I have a list of different places, events, and general injustices that I want to research and I am excited to graduate so I can continue the research I started in Model UN and maybe get a clearer idea of what I ultimately want to be when I finally grow up. Thanks for taking a chance on me.

Dr. Scholl/ Dr. Grove  
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In the past few semesters I've learned different things that related to communication and writing styles and other formalities. After the first three conferences, I felt confident in the procedures of the simulation and the type of information needed in order to create speeches and



participate in resolution writing. I also learned the importance being a passive listener and the need for diplomacy in order to compromise with other delegates. Resolution writing, impromptu speeches, and raising my placard at the very first committee session are all things that I've come understand and exert when given the opportunity. After 7 conferences I can firmly say I understand the difference of an operative and a perambulatory clause, I can also say that I understand why the actual United Nations is necessary and acutely criticized. The decision making process in the United Nations is complicated and elongated because actual delegations aren't as willing to compromise or share their interests as openly as the delegates I've had the pleasure of working with. Whenever I found myself working with a group, I observed the openness and willingness to serve each delegate demonstrated and thought these are the intellectuals, our world needs, individuals that are transparent with intentions to mend the world rather than selectively take action. Throughout my research I found that many countries ratified agreements, endorsed campaigns of improvement, but failed to renew their interest, or comply the entirety of an agreement. The acknowledgement that delegations commit to positive intentions but fail to comply entirely is the reason the world needs the existence of the United Nations. The United Nations is the structure that continues to produce measures of improvement whether delegations completely implement them or not.

In the past few conferences, there have been several moments of pride and academic accomplishment, the first moment was when I said present as The Republic of the Congo and experienced the rush of being part of something. In the past three conferences the moment I was proudest of, happened in Santa Barbara where I was able to work with Andrew, James, Maria, and Kayla. We all represented countries that didn't relate to each other profoundly but related



anyway. During the three topics we explored we had to work separately and together at the same time, despite the different resolutions we worked on and the ones we worked together, the amount of support I received from this group was infinite. I'm happy to say that at the end of this semester, I have attained the respect of my classmates and their constant support whether we agree on the policies we are discussing or not. I'm proud to say that all of the resolutions we developed in the General assembly in Santa Barbara were diverse, well written and well represented because there were so many different views and positive feedback.

Even though this is my last semester at CSU Channel Islands, there is definitely room for improvement, if I were to participate in future conferences. Due to the earliness of San Francisco, I felt like I had forgotten the material for this conference after going through two other conferences. I think I should've created a spreadsheet with the main points of my policy statements and major stances as a state. I was extremely knowledgeable and familiar with my position as New Zealand because it had been recent and I reviewed constantly. The flow of speeches and writing was definitely more natural because I remembered everything so easily, I think more organization as student would have benefited me as delegate, considering this semester was created for three conferences. I always relied on my computer and failed to print actual notes for the conferences and that served as burden because Wi-Fi or electricity outlets aren't always available. In general, as a student I would like to depend less on technology and develop skills that are more interactive and possible without the use of a laptop.

Throughout my time at CI, I have learned many different things about myself and about the world. As a person that loves to talk and share ideas, I learned the aspect of listening. For a long time, I struggled with listening to other people, they weren't finished speaking by the time I



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already had a thought at the border of my lips. I realized that by not listening to people, I was only becoming powerless because I didn't know anything but my own thoughts. Model UN changed that, because I found myself constantly marbled by how intelligent or creative the thoughts of my classmates or delegates were. When I joined Model UN I didn't know much about myself or thought about the world much. I had dreams of becoming a poet, I thought the only way to talk about unfortunate events and chaos was through fiction. Model United Nations introduced me to an academic form of communication that is rooted in facts but allows the student to be "human". In most reflections I have written, I have always acknowledged this aspect because it is the most important lesson, I have learned as a political science major and delegate; without the humanization of politics and dialogue there is no hope for positive change. I believe that every governmental structure and international treaty should be instituted with the sole purpose of preserving and improving human life. The investment we make in this world is essentially a gift to our future generations and our future selves. I have been part of this team for quite a while and every single time I have acquired a skill that is rare but necessary, a friendship, or matured a little more than expected.

POLS 427

Model UN

**Reflection Paper**



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

This semester of Model United Nations I represented India in the Human Rights Council - Universal Periodic Review, Brazil in the ECOSOC, and Chile in the GA. As India I learned much of their growing economy and difficulty in securing human rights for the whole population, however it was the experience in the HRC-UPR that was unique. I absolutely loved learning about the review process and I think it is a strong component of the HRC I didn't know existed. However, I now think that the UPR is a process best left to reality. Again, the content was interesting, however the committee sessions were boring and frustrating. Part of this was due to the organization of the committee. Representing India was great, I just wish I had had more to work with in committee.

I learned so much about Brazil from WestMUN, it was so much fun. The topics covered women's rights, rural electrification, and sustainable development. As the Brazilian delegate, there was much and more to say for women's rights. During the conference I was approached by the delegate of the UK and she questioned the policy position I was taking. After, she told me that she was Brazilian and thought I was representing Brazilian women accurately, and that was definitely a highlight. Further, I *loved* learning about the Amazon... the canopy alone is less explored than the oceans... wow.

As Chile my strongest lessons came in the form of diplomacy. The delegate of Serbia and the United States plagiarized the clauses I had written, and although I tried to stop them, those clauses made their way into the Serbia/US resolution. I have experienced rude people at MUN



conferences before, but never this personally. It started with me attempting a new strategy for incorporation; I began with my South American bloc and moved to the Serbia/US coalition with the intent to bring South American ideals into another working paper to make a future merge easier. After they received my work, Serbia and the US refused to merge, and claimed my clauses were better with them. In the end, after many arguments with those delegates, I was surprised to receive their printed draft resolution with my clauses incorporated. After it was clear they would not remove them, I spent the rest of the conference campaigning against them on the grounds of plagiarism and I did great with that. My resolution (with those same clauses reworded to be *correct!*) passed with flying colors, and theirs sunk.

## **2. What are you most proud of?**

I am most proud of my skills at resolution writing. I really love the word crafting, and as Chile in SF, much of the GA respected those skills. I found that I was the one others were depending on to articulate their positions into preambular and operative form, and it felt nice to be able to help. I suppose that is more a reflection on the multiple conferences I've attended, however I know that my writing now is much stronger than it was before I left for Italy.

I am very proud of my award that I received at WestMUN. It was unexpected and I sent a picture to my mum as soon as I got it and she was thrilled as well. It was so great that we could see Sara and Kristina because they were on the team for my first conference at WestMun.

ALSO I AM *VERY* PROUD THAT ME, MY BANK ACCOUNT, AND MY PEERS AND ADVISORS SURVIVED THIS THREE CONFERENCE SEMESTER!!Go us!!!

## **3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.**





At NWMUN, my difficulties were mostly outside of the conference. I should have helped to organize the group dinner for the first or second day we were there. Instead we got the mess that got messier after we returned. I never said anything then because perpetuating the situation was something I had (and have) no intention of doing. I got frustrated with some of my peers, I believe I was sold short, and only one side of the story was heard. I should have helped to organize the dinner for an earlier time, on a more practical day, somewhere unique to Portland.

WestMUN was a great experience altogether. I spoke, I wrote, I argued, it was fantastic! Looking back now, I should have researched a bit more into the BRICS agreements, as I found myself surrounded by... RICS (haha), and looking for those agreements during committee. I should have printed a lot more information with me because the wifi would not work on my phone or computer, which was very frustrating.

At MUNFW I should have gone to the dais and reported the plagiarism. In my defense, it was the last two hours of the conference and I was tired. Gabby *did* grab the paper I had written all the instances of plagiarism on and brought it to the chair because she saw how upset I was about it. Unfortunately they could not enforce anything even though they said they caught the similarities. I should have had more gall to walk up and demand action.

4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

This semester's experiences ultimately taught me that I am more resilient than I previously thought. The first conference's team struggle frustrated me deeply, yet I have moved passed it and feel stronger because of it. *Often* I have shrugged off my desires so others could fulfill theirs, and I voiced my opinion many times this semester and I am proud that I have been making my voice heard inside and out of committee. I learned that if I care enough about a goal,



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I must help construct the way there. I had a great time with the three conferences, although it was taxing. I will miss it, and I will be seeing both of you around for the next two semesters! I wish the future MUN teams luck!



Model UN

5/5/2016

### Model UN Spring '16 Reflection Paper

In Portland this semester, I learned a lot about negotiations and the importance of diplomacy through my interaction with many delegates. I was representing Italy and I had a lot of influence on the working paper while working with Hannah and Kimberly; we were working really well together and had a very strong connection to the rest of the EU. However, because of our influence over the paper, one state in particular, Latvia, tried to take the paper away from us and make it her own. She was very abrasive and at one point became very unprofessional, this is where I had to remain calm and professional and demonstrate diplomacy with her. After I had talked to her, she apologized for acting poorly and others agreed with us that she had become unprofessional. Even though it is not always easy, I realized the importance of staying professional and diplomatic as the rest of the body will respect you a lot more and be open to working with you. I also learned a lot about working through unexpected circumstances. I ended up with slight food poisoning half way through the second day, and even though I felt poorly, I feel like it was not an excuse to give up or leave. If anything I believe this made me more motivated to get the work done and took the initiative to get everyone on task.

If I were to change anything about this conference, it would be to be more assertive, especially with states like Latvia, who got away with more than she should have. Although it is very important to be able to negotiate and compromise, it is also very important to push for your own position as much as possible, and I believe that is something I could have done better.



I was very proud of the fact that I was representing a state that was heavily affected about the topic, refugees. There were many times that I was able to answer peoples questions and effectively promote Italy's policies in the UNHCR. I am also very proud that Hannah and I got to be the leaders of our working paper, we made the most decisions about the paper and the content, and were able to present it to the chairs. I am also proud that I won an award for my position paper at this conference, it showed me how much I have improved and motivated me to work harder on the next position papers.

One thing I learned about myself is that not everyone is going to like me, on the team and in committee and that's OK. Its not always easy to disregard the opinions of your peers but sometimes it is necessary to be the best delegate and teammate you can be, and do the best for you.

Santa Barbra was my favorite conference of them all. I really enjoyed being a part of the Security Council, it felt like a real UN body with all the back and forth negotiations. I was constantly on the speakers list and as there were only 10 people in my committee and felt that everyone really heard what I had to say. I felt very comfortable in my committee and felt there was a mutual respect between all delegates in the committee. I felt the true meaning of diplomacy was established in my committee, everyone played a part in creating the resolutions and it showed in the quality of our paper. I feel that the world of international relations was reflected in our committee in the manner in which others spoke to each other. It was very fast-paced, professional environment that was very different from the past committees, but I am very excited that I got to work on this committee.



If I were to chance anything, I would have worked more on the resolution outside of the committee to be more efficient and effective in committee. I am the most proud of my performance at the conference and it gave me the confidence to go into San Francisco and speak more and be a leader. I am also proud that I won Most Diplomatic for my committee as I worked really hard and feel like my performance has improved a lot of the past couple semester. I am most proud that I was able to use a cunning diplomatic move in order to appease the entire delegation minus one delegate. Although it was not fully consensus, it almost was and I played a large role in that. I was able to block one member of the P5 from using their veto, I was able to allow the resolution to pass by acclamation.

This conference taught me that I am capable of working in a fast-paced environment. I was always hesitant about being in the Security Council because I was worried I wouldn't be able to think on the spot and keep up with the pace of the committee. However, I learned that I am capable of working in that environment and that I don't need to write everything down before I say it, even though I still prefer to.

In San Francisco, I learned to take initiative and become a leader for my committee. Although the delegates that my state usually works with were not present, I was able to quickly form together a diverse working group that shared similar interest with my state and efficiently write out a resolution that could be adopted by the entire committee. There were a few professionals in my committee, that previously worked for the UN, which made passing certain operatives difficult, but with persistence I was able to get the content I wanted into the paper.

I believe I could have been on the speakers list more, I did a lot of the writing and left it up to the other members of my working group to speak the most. Although I did speak in



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moderated and unmoderated caucuses, I should have addressed the entire body more frequently than I did.

I am proud that I was able to get my ideas across to not only the delegates but also the chairs. I was the main person in the working group who worked with the chairs while they discussed with me how to push the paper forward and how to strengthen it. This is the first time I've had the connections to the chairs like I did, and it was nice being the point person of my working group.

In conclusion, three conferences in one semester was rough, but if anything it made me stay on top of my work not only for this class, but for my other classes. Being on such a strict schedule of when things were do and how much time I had to prepare. After the semester I have found that I procrastinate a lot less and put more effort into my work and take pride in my work. I think that can be shown through the awards I won at each conference this semester.



Model UN  
Dr. Grove and Dr. Scholl

### Reflection

When I was first asked if I was interested in participating in Model UN, I knew that it was exactly the sort of thing that I am interested in. Going into the semester, I had an idea that I would be learning a lot, but never did I realize just how much I would take in. In terms of the actual United Nations, I had an idea of a few of the different committees and how they functioned, but I never really actually thought about the day-to-day meetings and what those entailed.

International relations are an interesting matter, and through my experience in the General Assembly committees I learned that most countries really do mean well, and a lot of resolutions have been passed on a majority of things that worry us as humans. Its really quite easy to say something along the lines of “the UN does nothing” or “the UN has no power”, but through these simulations, it really made me think about how hard delegations work from each country in order to make the world a better place, as they see fit. Its so easy to play ‘armchair quarterback’, or I guess I’ll go with the phrase ‘couch delegate’, when talking about the UN. However, going in and negotiating with delegates, who do a great job accurately representing their countries’ interests, really revealed the difficulty of creating a widespread consensus in the way that the country you yourself are representing would see fit. This experience has only reaffirmed the importance of listening first, and treating everybody with respect in order to have



a good working relationship. I learned that the overwhelming majority of countries do have similar desires for peace and an economy that works for everybody, and being involved in this program made me reflect on progress that the international community has made. I believe that the correct avenues for peace and human development are in place, and that we as humans are still relatively new in the process of working with an organization like the UN and will continue improving and making progress with it. Seeing all of the different commitments that countries have made, such as the New Agenda Coalition or with climate smart agriculture, has given me hope for the future of the world.

As a participant of Model UN, I am proud to see how many fellow university students from around the world are committed to learning about international relations and expanding their horizons. Students from all over dedicate a lot of time and preparation into these conferences, and it really teaches us how to further open our minds and put ourselves in the shoes of somebody from a different country and culture. I feel as though I have learned a lot about not just the countries that I have represented, but many of the countries that were represented in the conferences, and that I have a more global perspective than I had going in. Coming together with delegates with different mindsets and agendas was frustrating at times, but looking back at the work that we hashed out and resolutions we created makes me really proud.

Perhaps the most arduous task, more so than the actual conferences, were writing the position papers. The first paper took me a long time because I was not really sure where to even begin, but once I was able to get over the initial hump of writing the first few positions I feel like I really got the hang of it. As someone who is not a political science major (and therefore has not done a whole lot of research papers in the past) who is now entering upper division classes, I





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really appreciate how I was pushed into doing the in-depth research that the position papers require. This semester I have been bombarded by research papers, and doing the work for Model UN has really improved the quality of my work. I am really proud of the documents that I put together in preparation for each conference, as I learned about topics that I never knew a thing about. I will take the research ability that I have begun to develop in Model UN with me for the rest of my life.

At NWMUN, it really took me the first two days to get the hang of things. This was natural, of course, as it was my first conference. I did not really know what to expect, and if I could have changed anything, I learned how important first impressions are in terms of negotiations. We had a very broad topic-climate smart agriculture-and it was difficult to reach a concise consensus that really seemed like it would make a difference. About 20 minutes before the conference was over, we finally passed a few resolutions on the matter, and I wish I had reached out more to the delegates of other countries writing the other resolutions. Nonetheless, it was my first conference and I feel as though I worked on these things at Westmun.

For me, Westmun was the perfect experience for a novice delegate. The smaller size really got everybody to create a dialogue with one another, and coming outside to sunshine, as opposed to the grey skies of Portland, really helped with getting through the long days. At this conference, I was able to write a huge portion of a number of resolutions, and I feel as though it was my best performance out of the three that we attended. However, I still could have worked with the Middle-Eastern block more effectively, but they sure were a handful to deal with. The stark difference in size between Westmun and MUNFW required quite an adjustment.



There is no doubt that MUNFW was the most formal and challenging conference of the three that we participated in. It was tough to break through the blocks and overall clicky-ness of the diplomacy, but I recognize that it is probably the most realistic of the three conferences. Due to taking 18 units, working 30 hours a week, and having already spent hours preparing and attending the first two conferences, I would have liked to have managed my time better and been better prepared for MUNFW. There were some really skilled delegates there, and I would like to see if I can get to that level within the next year.

These experiences taught me to be confident in my ability to research. I am now comfortable tackling any research paper in large part to the position papers that we wrote in preparation for these conferences. As someone who is a Spanish and Global Studies major, it is important to be able to put myself in the shoes of someone from a different culture and part of the world, and Model UN has helped me do this. Now, I feel as though I can view things more objectively and have an easier time observing the biases of my upbringing and putting them aside after acting as a delegate from various countries, and actually getting up and speaking about it.

The public speaking aspect of Model UN has tamed my nerves of speaking in front of other people. Along with the public speaking course that I had taken with Dr. Polly Robinson at Cal. Lutheran my freshman year of college, Model UN has drastically improved my ability to speak in front of other people. I made a point to not read; instead, I looked over key points before speaking in front of the delegations and feel as though I can do this with any topic and in front of any crowd.



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All in all, I really learned a lot about my passion for international topics that affect people every single day. From an academic perspective, these experiences vastly improved my written and oral expression, and from a more philosophical and social standpoint, it has developed my objectivity and thinking twice before spewing out an opinion that might have more to do with my background and culture rather than facts. Although this was, by far, my busiest and most time-consuming semester, this has been an invaluable experience, and I will forever be grateful to Dr. Grove, Dr. Scholl and my fellow teammates for taking me in and helping me through this experience.



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Model United Nations

Professors Chris Scholl and Andrea Grove

May 5, 2016

Reflection Paper

Out of all the semesters being part of the MUN team, this semester has definitely been the most intensive one yet. The biggest reason I continue to be part of the MUN team after all these years is because the MUN program is an endless source of knowledge and experience for me, and this semester was no different. The three conferences this semester reinforced many important lessons I had previously learned in previous semesters regarding negotiating, international relations, and diplomatic professionalism. However, my favorite thing about being part of the MUN team this semester was realizing that no matter how many times I participate in these conferences, I learn just as much about myself as I do about the countries I represent.

This semester gave me the opportunity to be part of two committees that I had never been part of before: being part of the General Assembly, and being part of the Security Council in MUNFW. These two experiences taught me a lot about negotiating with people in different



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settings. Representing Denmark in the General Assembly in NWMUN certainly brought to my attention the “theatrical” side of delegating. In a committee full of delegates, it is not very easy to get noticed by other delegates, or the dais for that matter. Being part of that committee served as a reminder that attention in big committees has to be earned. Although a majority of the delegates proposed interesting and original ideas regarding the issues the GA was presented, it seemed that the body would automatically look towards a handful of delegates for ideas and instructions. Looking back at that committee, I realized that the delegates who the body seemed to gravitate around were not necessarily the most informed delegates, nor the most cooperative, nor the ones that proposed the best ideas; these delegates were the ones who spoke in a manner that made everyone listen. For example, the delegate that represented Montenegro presented very solid and thought-out ideas to the body, but was very soft-spoken and somewhat monotone, meaning that he did not get much recognition from the body; however, the French delegate was very energetic and somewhat theatric in his speeches, which granted him recognition from the body. As a result, Montenegro did not receive an award while France did, despite the existence of a clear gap in the quality of the ideas that both of these delegates proposed. At the end of the conference, I feel like the delegates that were actively engaged in the conference were able to recognize me and remember a few of the ideas that I presented; however, that was only a portion of the body. On the other hand, at the end of the conference, at least ninety percent of the delegates would be able to recognize the French delegate, not due to any groundbreaking idea that he proposed, but because of his theatrics in the committee. I learned a lot from the United States in the General Assembly; she was captivating when she talked and was knowledgeable on the issues and the committee. In a sense, the United States was the perfect middle ground



between Montenegro and France, and that showed because she won the Outstanding Delegate Award.

Being in the Security Council in MUNFW taught me the value of collaboration and a mutual willingness to work together. This committee was the most enjoyable committee that I have ever been a part of; no delegate was unfriendly, unprofessional, or disrespectful. The biggest reason why this committee was so good, in my opinion, had to do with the delegates' attitudes going into it. No one in the Security Council took the conference as a joke, but they didn't take it personally either. Every delegate knew that other countries may disagree with what they said, but instead of this leading to a verbal conflict, the automatic response was to seek a middle ground in the disagreement. This happened dozens of times in that committee. The council passed three resolutions, all of which passed unanimously with the exception of one abstention. This committee made me realize that your attitude towards a certain experience can change how you perceive and remember it. I do not have anything negative to say about the 2016 MUNFW SC; it has been the pinnacle of positive attitude and collaborative work in my entire MUN career.

There are many things that I am proud of during this semester of MUN. One of the things that I am always proud of the way that the team sticks together during conferences and how easy it is for new members to get along with older members. Another thing that I am proud of is the fact that I won outstanding delegate in WestMUN; however, this semester, I am most proud of my teammates doing an excellent job in MUNFW and getting a clean sweep during the awards. It is sad to see so many teammates go this semester, and it was a fitting farewell for all of them to leave their last conference with three delegation awards. One thing that I wish I would have done



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better this semester is to have started NWMUN with the same attitude I did in WestMUN and MUNFW. I know that if I had started NWMUN with the same attitude and conviction that I had when I started WestMUN and MUNFW, I would have been one of the central delegates in the General Assembly.

POLS 427  
Model UN

### **Reflection Paper**

1. In the first conference NWMUN, I learned how hard it was for me to represent a state that had a distinct perspective towards refugees and migrants that I didn't necessarily agree with. I think that once I acquired this state, upon delving into the research I was trying to find the best way that I could integrate my own beliefs into the policies that had already been implemented. Given that we were the United Nations High Commissioner for refugees, I tried to stay as close to Australia's beliefs to represent the reality, although it was challenging. After the completion of this conference, I felt that it was good for me to represent a state that I did not agree with because I was able to see their side of the argument, realized the ways in which Australia was trying to



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improve, come up with a solution that would go further than they had been in the current scope of things but also remained true to their values and their citizens.

More than anything, I learned how to negotiate with myself as a way to fully represent Australia within the conference and be diplomatic about the situation, where individuals weren't able to question my motives given the current conditions of migrants within our state. Other than allowing more entry for refugees which has been a highly combative issues, I realized the different ways in which the state was trying to help with the refugee crisis situation and exerted that through my policy paper. It was a pleasure to be the chair for the UNHCR committee in the WESTMUN conference, a committee that is mandated to lead and co-ordinate international action to protect refugees and resolve refugee problems worldwide. I applauded the work of the delegation in the committee as they worked diligently throughout this three-day conference to come up with innovative ideas in regards to improving the refugee agency and the lives of refugees around the world. Our topics covered the Syrian refugee crisis, the forced migration and Myanmar peace process and the environment and its effects on UNHCR operations.

The delegation passed two resolutions on the Syrian refugee crisis and touched on issues of legal framework and funding. Which was imperative to address, as there are currently 4.8 million refugees and 13.5 million internally displaced persons resulting from this crisis. The delegation passed one cohesive resolution on forced migration and the Myanmar peace process, which touched on the rights and protections of minorities as well as the provision of humanitarian aid within the nation. They were quick to find consensus on the topic of environment and its effects on UNHCR operations and managed to pass a resolution. Although there were more un-moderated caucuses than speakers, it felt incredibly rewarding with the results of their working





papers. The most that I learned from this conference was to help the delegates to make their document stronger and more substantive. I definitely noticed the growth of many delegates from the first committee session to the last, from practicing diplomacy, maintaining decorum, and taking a practical approach on the matters that were discussed. Overall it was a great learning experience not only for the delegates but also for myself as a chair.

In the third conference at NMUN where I was a part of the second committee that addressed the global financial risk and interdependence of the international economy. Prior to attending this conference I had a very limited understanding of economics and how states could increase their economic situation. If you would have told me they could increase their capital, at first glance I would have been lost. What I learned from this conference, was more than what I had learned in my economics course in high school. Going back to that, this class being an experiential learning class, I was able to delve into the economic situation of Botswana and that of other states that I was going to be working with the days of the conference. Everyone came up with innovative solutions that would help the aftermath of the global financial crisis, mitigate another global financial risk and increase south-south cooperation. Although I left early both of my ideas made it through in resolutions and I had even received a kudos from one of the representatives that were presenting at the conference on behalf of the United Nations. That really uplifted my spirits in knowing that I was going in the right direction.

2. I am most proud of the growth that I have acquired throughout the years of being in the Model United Nations group. After being in Model United Nations for quite some time, I have been able to learn the ropes and acquire skills that have been exerted throughout other areas of



my life. In terms of public speaking skills, conflict management and mediation, as well as developed a sense of cultural competency.

My knowledge of international affairs has opened up many opportunities for me and has sparked my interest in studying abroad after college. From the goals that I had set for myself in previous conferences, I was able to come up with innovative solutions to the issues at hand. For example, in the third conference I came up with the solution for developing states like Botswana to improve their economic situation in the international community. Through the policy it encouraged the efforts of multilateral, regional and bilateral financial and development institutions to increase financial resources for developing states in the implementation of debt restructuring through the Multilateral Development Relief Initiative, noting the benefits that debt restructuring has had for Heavily Indebted Poor Countries and encourages the  $\frac{2}{3}$  decrease in debt interest as to fit Developing states debt into sustainable fiscal planning.

I am proud that within every conference I have been able to set a goal for myself and completed it to the best of my ability. Earning an award as well as being a chair for one of the conferences has taught me that I can accomplish what I set my mind to if I put in the hours and work. I am most proud of what I have achieved throughout the conference and after in terms of the knowledge gained and in greater part how I have put that knowledge to use. After finishing, the conference I now find myself wanting to gain a better understanding on development economics and take other courses that are offered at CI, such as international political economy. This class not only prepares you for a conference but it also moves you to be proactive within the world, thinking analytically and not remaining ignorant to what is occurring interdependently. I believe that by participating in this class it has helped sparked growth in knowledge within my



undergraduate career, as in seeing the different ways that we interact with states day to day. Specifically from the interdependence of economies, products included in supply and demand, the buildup of a state's economy by increasing its capital. Through this semester I can honestly say that the economist has been my best friend.

3. I think what I can learn from all these semester conferences is to improve upon my writing skills, I think at this point I have mastered the research portion, the diplomacy that is required within the conferences, I have also overcome the fear of giving presentations. The biggest area that I feel I need to improve is in my English composition, which is something that I have dealt with since my freshman year of college.

My writing skills have prevented me from earning an A in many courses whereas if I had someone proofread my document, I could have made it stronger. Another big thing that I have had trouble overcoming is my inability to ask for help because in some ways I fear the feeling of inadequacy. For my next last conferences however that is my intended goal, I will stop and ask for help as a way to improve my policy papers and get the policy initiatives to be stronger. Although not ideal, I broke my ankle which in some sense hindered my ability to move around the room in the third conference, but towards the end I tried to stand my ground for what I had put forth in the committee and therefore it passed.

4. First and foremost I feel that you always have areas that one can improve upon. With that however, I pride myself in what I have learned thus far. To who I was my first semester of college to where I am today, I have noted the difference in my work ethic and attitude towards the world. I will now be the Vice President of the International Relations club and I am hoping to spread the knowledge to the rest of my peers at the institution. I learned that there is more to gain



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from the model united nations course as every conference is diverse and you learn something new at every point. Although I had thought that I had learned and gained everything I could from this experience, I will be attending next year's conference and I am hoping to get a better policy paper through. I learned this semester that you are never done growing and I will make sure to follow through with my intended goals.

POLS 427

Reflection paper

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



diplomacy, negotiations, etc.

In Portland I represented Australia in the General Assembly. What I had most difficulty with is the lack of strength, or bite, that the General Assembly carried. Trying to get issues taken care of seemed to be very difficult due to the limited responsibilities of the General Assembly and that there are many other organizations that were responsible for the topics that we discussed. Throughout the conference I began to realize that more than anything the General Assembly is supposed to commit to funding solutions already created by other organs of the U.N..

In Santa Barbara I represented Turkey (and for a moment, Palestine) in the Human Commissioner for Refugees. Unfortunately most of the people within my committee were all new and did not quite understand their country's position on any of the topics. I spent a large part of my time attempting to get them up to speed on how to find out their country position and whether or not they should become signatories on any resolution I had created. Had this been another conference I believe the position of Turkey would have been very complicated due to recent events that have constrained international relations.

In San Francisco I represented Botswana in the Food and Agriculture Organization. I learned more about the continent of Africa than I had ever known before. The amount of progress Botswana has made within its borders, for being such a young country, is astounding. There are so many issues that are not entirely the government's fault, however makes developing the country extremely difficult. The African block is the strongest block I've ever worked in mostly because African countries seem to be aligned with a lot of the issues that has to do with



food and agriculture. There was very little friction between our countries. The portion I was most surprised with is the amount of extreme distaste of GMOs from European countries.

2. What are you most proud of?

As Australia I played diplomatic role in resolution writing. The United States delegate was on top of her game and took lead in a lot of the writings. She represented the blocks we worked with very well. I helped in her process to writing solid resolutions and getting people to sign so we may push for a vote.

In Santa Barbara I was happy to be chosen for the role of Palestine. I also helped a lot of delegates understand MUN. Many of them were told two weeks before the conference and were left to figure out the conference for themselves. They had a better time after I explained to them what was going on and I enjoyed the challenge they brought as they became better delegates throughout the weekend. I taught them how to write resolutions, that there was a MUN app and how to download it, how to speak for the countries they were representing, and website resources on where they could find all the information they need on their countries stance on specific issues. Even the girls from Occidental College began to warm up to us after the first day. Diplomacy became more and more feasible when ignorance and arrogance was taken out of the conference all together.

As Botswana I was most proud of the African Block and their hard work in creating solid resolutions. The delegate of Burkina Faso and myself led the African Block and focused our efforts on ensuring that the conference went how it was supposed to. Many other delegates tried to pass resolutions through dirty tactics by attempting to get the committee to voting block before the African Block could write a resolution. I spoke on the behalf of the African Block by



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reminding the committee that Africa is the continent that suffers the most within the world of agriculture and to have the voices unheard would take away from the entire point of the conference. The vote to move into voting block swayed to what I elected for and we were able to finish merging and negotiating the resolution originally made. I was most proud of my work in San Francisco.

3. What could you have done better at the conferences? Try to be specific about each conference—NWMUN, Westmun, and MUNFW.

In NWMUN I focused on writing and negotiating/compromising with other delegates. There issue this strategy presented was my lack of presence to the rest of the committee. I did not speak very much throughout the weekend in Portland. The General Assembly was difficult due to the lack of workspace (desks/tables). I ended spending my time with the same Commonwealth states rather than trying to compromise or write more papers with other groups. I should have spoken up more, expressed the needs and wants of Australia more forthright, and worked with others more than just the crowd I had surrounded myself with.

In Westmun I was most disappointed in my lack of capability to play Palestine. I wish I could have done a better job, even knowing my limitations on time. As Turkey I knew least about the Malaysia topic and Turkey's position on Malaysia. Luckily because it was a topic we didn't have to do too much discussion on I didn't have to speak on it as much. I did a lot of speeches in Westmun but not enough resolution writing.

At MUNFW I allowed myself to get too emotional during speeches. Especially when other delegates decided to make the committee a game of who could pass their resolution first. It was unfortunate that I allowed myself to get that way. The delegate who represented Burkina



Faso was someone to model after. She was always professional, extremely articulate, and never allowed herself to become emotional during debate. I didn't allocate enough of the resolution writing to the others in the African Block which would have allowed those delegates who were new to MUN to gain experience in areas that had less knowledge in.

4. What did these experiences teach you about yourself?

I definitely feel as though this year I did better. I feel as though I finally understand the dynamics of Model U.N. and what it takes to be a good representative of a state's ideals. I believe that last couple of years I struggled with MUN because of the arrogance I carried from my military experiences. I have been so humbled by MUN. I'm happy to say that this experience has been a challenge that I have grown from and walk away feeling like I've gained something from it. I am definitely certain that the third semester of doing this has allowed me to grow in ways I did not expect. I will be walking away from this semester feeling more confident in whatever career I choose in politics. I have found that there are a lot of organizations out there that I can join to contribute to the world and the better part of society. I have been looking into many different types of United Nations institutions and Non-government Organizations. These all have brought me closer to my ultimate goal for my future.