

Washington Week Essay

Washington Week has been the most amazing and profound experience I have ever had. Of course, I loved going to the White House and seeing Barack Obama. After he shook my hand, I knew that my hand would never be the same. I can't explain it, but it actually felt different! Although I will always remember my trip to the White House, it was some of the other aspects of Washington Week that made my trip even more memorable.

I feel so lucky to have had the chance to listen to a speech given by Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg. The excitement in the room was palpable! Justice Ginsburg is so wise and she inspires me to succeed. I also loved listening to Michael Leiter...and I'm not just saying that because he was biased towards the tri-state area when answering questions! He opened my eyes even more to what is going on in the rest of the world. Prior to Washington Week, I had very little interaction with members of the military. I had a distorted view of people in the military, and the military mentors definitely changed that. All the military mentors were incredible people. They all had life experiences to share with the delegates. Because of the military mentors, I have a larger understanding and a more profound respect for members of the military.

Above all, it was the other delegates that made Washington Week the greatest week of my life. The moment I walked into the Colonial Room the first day, I knew Washington Week would be something really special. Everyone was incredibly friendly, respectful and polite. Believe me, I missed that a lot when I got back to school! I never would have imagined I would become so close with so many people in such a short period of time. I was exposed to young people with completely different perspectives, and I have taken many lessons they have taught me back to Connecticut. I admire their passion, determination, and leadership. Each and every delegate inspires me to do my best and to succeed. They are the most intelligent and talented people I have ever met, and more importantly, the nicest people I have ever met. The USSYP delegates are people that I will care about and remain friends with for the rest of my life.

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