

I would like you to explain which speakers and experiences were most interesting to you and why and what lessons you have taken with you from any aspect of the program.

The United States Senate Youth Program was the most thrilling, thought-provoking, and humbling experience of my life. Washington Week provided us with an opportunity most high school students can only dream of- to explore the inner most crevices of the political arena and meet with its elite.

Most importantly, this program reaffirmed my decision to enter the print journalism field. USSYP was an incredibly in-depth examination of the US government, but I cannot help but think we only brushed the surface. I am now far more eager to submerge myself in the world of political media coverage. Furthermore, when I am a professional print journalist, I have a solid chance at landing the exclusive interview with one of my fellow delegates, presumably a future Senator or government official.

While the guest speakers were numerous and diverse, a few people especially stood out. I particularly enjoyed Michael Leiter, Brian Lamb, Associate Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg, Senator Thomas Carper, and President Barack Obama. However, the most inspiring people associated with the program were the military mentors. They were down to Earth, friendly, captivating, and eager to share about their experiences. One lunch, the delegates and I talked about the war overseas with a Lieutenant of the Marines for nearly an hour straight. It was the most personal conversation I had ever had about US foreign policy and I learned more than any textbook could offer me. It was an invaluable opportunity to broaden my horizons, and something I will not forget.

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