

Ra'mya Davis, DC - 2022

“Would you want to be a part of a country that didn’t believe in justice?” looking back in my journal and reflecting on this question stated by Judge Robert Henry my initial answer to his question would be no but I have found so much more meaning to this question. I believe there are certain limits to what justice looks like in the U.S. but throughout history groups of people have come together and started movements such as the Civil Rights movement or the Black Power movement just to name a couple, those people who came from those movements achieved justice for some of the issues they cared deeply about and devoted their lives too no matter how long it took them or the unfortunate consequences bestowed on them. So if there is nothing else I can do I will make sure I continue to fight for things I care deeply about because I do not want to be a part of a country that doesn’t believe in the founding principle of justice.

“Freedom is taught” and “We begin to know ourselves in time” are two quotes I was able to catch when Justice Anthony Kennedy was speaking to us. From my perspective freedom can be taught when you have someone who has only known what being oppressed is. Freedom being taught also makes me think about how if more schools across the U.S. taught African American history accurately it can instill the reasons for African American children that they are worthy of liberation from an educational perspective. I agree that all people begin to know themselves with time but I believe all people should do self-reflection on who they are and think about if they are conditioned to hurting others and work to stop doing it so others can heal. Taking time to learn yourself should encourage you to change for the greater good when necessary.

One of my favorite parts of Washington Week was the diplomacy simulation. I have never been exposed to Model UN in school so the simulation was very new to me but my stakeholder group members were very supportive and negotiating deals is one of the core principles at my school so it was pretty nice to flex those skills. Another part of the program I really enjoyed was debriefing sessions with my Imagineer family. I think back to how a conversation about how you pronounce pecan turned into the development of our group name Imagineers, although that is the short name of our group. Hearing from the Federal Communications Commission Chairwoman Jessica Rosenworcel showed how politics intersect with our airwaves and broadcasting abilities more deeply. Anytime a historic timeline is presented I am extremely engaged. In fact, when Chairwoman Rosenworcel mentioned that in 1996 that Congress limited the number of radio stations a market could own was fascinating and I did my own research around the Telecommunications Act of '96. Another fact I learned was that the act advocated for parental control to be included in TV sets.

As one of few African American girls in the program, I hope to see more apply and join the legacy. The United States Senate Youth Program opened up a whole new world for my place and understanding of our nation’s political system I know from the ideas, perspectives, and thought-provoking questions asked by my fellow delegates from across the U.S. Having very prestigious guest speakers hear our voices and express their hope in our power to better the world are moments I will never forget. I will never forget the unique bond I made with my military mentor group members and I can’t wait to see what we all do to change the world for positive change. I am proud that I created a new chapter of history for my family and truly humbled by the experience that I will never forget.