

A week full of excitement and the intellectual level of all the students is one of the many descriptive words that comes into my mind when I think about my week with USSYP. The program reminded me everyday that I was one of the of the best however, sitting and debating with other delegates made me see that even though I was not the smartest as always, I was surrounded by the future leaders of our nation. Being one of the last one to leave the hotel was very pain full because all the delegates were just starting to connect with one another, but the memories of this week are marked in my mind forever.

The first day of the week started slowly, as every delegate dropped their bags and checked in. I thought I was going to be ahead of everybody by getting to know the most delegates but I was wrong. Apparently, most of them got to know each other in advance, on facebook through the USSYP group that I was not aware of at the time. I got to know several delegates and as soon as we all knew our names everybody got into an interesting debate about different issues. Hearing the different opinions from other people with the same age, showed me how diverse we are. That day ended up well and I was anxious about how the rest of the week will go.

Meeting our mentor and my whole group made me feel more comfortable because they were the ones I could rely on and relate to at any times. We bonded very well together and even gave ourselves a name the FTQs (fighters Thunder Quakers). The week was very busy and we did not have a lot of time to sleep or to loose. The senators that we met gave me an

insight of what it was like to be a leader. However, the questions that we asked were so sophisticated that they could not be properly answer. My two favorite speakers were Soto Mayor and the ambassador of India. Meeting Soto Mayor was more like a discussion between the delegates and her. She told us how she made it and what her prospective of the world is. The ambassador of India passionately told us about the slow but affective changes that are going on in India society. I am a public speaker and I'm use to speak in front of a crow but I was honor to introduce the parliamentarian of the senate. I have to admit that I was very nervous but my mentor LT Michael Courtney helped me prepare the night before and he was a big help.

Shaking President Obama's hand was a once in a lifetime experience, listening to him speak to us and giving us advices for almost thirty minutes was inspiring. His words touched my soul "it is not about what you want to be, but it is most importantly about what you want to do". The war memorials marked me also because I witness the enormous amount of men and women who sacrificed their lives for our country. These are the true Heroes of the United States. Despite meeting the president and all the different activities that took place, meeting all the different delegates became the most important part of my stay. I was pretty much quite but I was observing and learning from everyone experience. Coming from the other part of the world, it was a pleasure to meet these great students and I was also amaze to see that we all have the same issues in our lives that we have to go through as teenager and young adults.