

Sidanth Sapru – IL

Washington Week 2010 was, quite honestly, the most unforgettable week of my entire life.

Now that I've gotten that out of my system, I'm also going to add that it's practically impossible to put a finger on what made the week so incredible. But hey, I'm going to try my best. My favorite part of the week was – like many of my fellow delegates -- meeting President Obama on Thursday afternoon. On the bus ride there, I remember listening to Markus of Washington D.C singing his original hit single, "We're off to meet Barack!" as the whole bus laughed along with him. In spite of all the excitement before, during, and after the experience, however, I think the thing that I'll remember most about President Obama was his sincerity. I couldn't help but be amazed at how humble, natural, and downright funny President Obama was during his remarks to us, despite the sheer weight of his accomplishments and the magnitude of his importance.

And you know what? I think that, right there, exemplifies the most important thing about Washington Week 2010. We got to listen to and direct questions towards the people that run our country, and in doing so, got to know them not just as politicians, justices, and government advisors, but as *people*. We heard about Justice Sotomayor's occasional feelings of uncertainty in various Supreme Court cases, as well as the motivation for Senator Casey's anti-abortion views despite the opinions of many of his partymembers. For me, this just made the world of politics seem so much more tangible, and so much more authentic. Because in the end, politics really is about more than elections, policies, and media coverage; it's about real, everyday people striving to make a difference in our country, even if they sometimes disagree about how best to do that. The speakers at Washington Week 2010 really helped me to see that.