

Timothy Seery
Montana

The most powerful aspect of Washington Week was to be immersed with young people from every corner of the nation who share a diversity of backgrounds, cultures, and experiences but share the one desire to serve America. By the end of the week I left with a new hope for the future, knowing that globally aware, articulate, and creative young people will take the reins and lead America into the next era of our history. Being in the presence of the other 103 delegates allowed me to gain an appreciation for the American character; no matter how we differed, what region of the nation we originated from, and the values we held we were unified by a camaraderie with each other and an appreciation for the democratic institutions that unite the states of America.

For me the message that resonated the most was Judge Robert Henry's statement about the reporters' notebooks in the USSYP bags as being representational of the ideals that make America great. It gives truth to the thought that the journalists and reporters are the watchdogs of democracy who bring the citizenry into the political process and the national discourse. The notebook that we all recorded our week's experiences in is a tangible form of the figurative notebook that every individual in America is afforded to record their experiences, make their impact, and write the first draft of their lives pursuing the dream that is America.

Above all, the USSYP will forever be remembered as the moment when the next generation of America's leaders learned from those who lead America today. I am confident that all 103 other delegates will hold this experience in the reservoirs of their thoughts as they pursue their higher education, their careers, and their ultimate service to America. Traveling to the city of ideas-- ideas that have built our nation and continue to define the people--was a monumental experience and surely one not to be forgotten.