

Mia Garuccio – PA

Washington Week was an indescribable experience; one that manages to balance an immersion into our government with allowing time to make friends from all over the country. The seven days we spent in the Mayflower Hotel, or as some called it “Paradise”, are certainly something none of us will ever forget, simply because the Hearst Foundation gave us everything possible to ensure we had a fantastic week.

Walking into the Pentagon was personally the most intriguing event for me. We as high school students were able to visit the center for most government operations for possibly the most powerful nation in the world. I was so intrigued by the thoughts the speakers there brought up and the workings which went on around us. Thinking of all the clandestine projects that occurred right where we got to eat lunch was ridiculous, as most people can only dream of doing what we just walked right in to. Even the activities we did in our hotel, like watching delegates audition for the speeches, singing Disney songs, or debating the healthcare bill, were a blast. We learned more from each other than any school-related experience ever could. The lessons I learned during USSYP 2010 are ones that will be with me forever. Not only did we get a taste of real life politics, but we made 104 friends for a lifetime.