**Brown’s culture fosters a community in which students challenge the ideas of others and have their ideas challenged in return, promoting a deeper and clearer understanding of the complex issues confronting society. This active engagement in dialogue is as present outside the classroom as it is in academic spaces. Tell us about a time you were challenged by a perspective that differed from your own. How did you respond? (200-250 words)\***

As a proponent for the environmentalists, I strongly believe in making a more sustainable world. Imagine my discombobulation when I had to argue against establishing environmental laws at the final round of the WSC debate at Yale University.

Both teams had 15 minute-research time; as the opposition team, I had to gather all possible arguments against establishing the laws. The affirmative team started their stance by pointing out everything I agreed with: protecting every component of the environment and aiming to achieve environmental conservation.

I was confused; how could environmental laws that helped the environmental law possibly be harmful? I felt uncomfortable having to take a side that I oppose. I brainstormed hard, thinking about the negative impacts that environmental laws could bring. Eureka: Business! These laws would negatively affect many unsustainable businesses by jacking up materials prices, causing a chain effect that eventually impacts every industry and harms the country’s GDP.

Both teams carried out heated arguments, and even though my team lost at the end of the debate, I came out learning something new.

Before this debate, if someone asked, “Should we implement environmental laws?” I would have automatically said yes without thinking twice. But in reality, I failed to see how it could negatively affect others. I learned that by taking the time to reflect and see how it could affect different people, I could see the whole picture. This interaction helped me understand the importance of looking at problems from a different perspective.