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1. What makes Model UN stand out from other activities at St. John’s? How many years have you been involved in Model UN? Describe your experience.

To me, Model UN is a unique club because it allows students to seriously discuss important world issues and their potential solutions in a structured manner, and as a result they become better informed about the world around them. It also gives students the chance to hone valuable skills such as public speaking or social organization that are rarely tested in other activities. I have been involved in Model UN for two years and have gone to two HAMUN conferences and one MITMUNC conference. Initially, I was quite timid and overwhelmed by others within my committee and rarely spoke up. However, over the course of my first conference, I gradually became more confident in my abilities and started working with people I had never met before to draft a resolution addressing ocean pollution. In the conferences that followed, I utilized this newfound confidence to lead discussions on issues ranging from transportation for refugees to gun control. To date, I have won one honorable mention and two outstanding delegate awards.

1. Why do you want to be part of the leadership team of Model UN? What can you contribute as a leader?

I would like to be a part of the leadership team of Model UN because I greatly enjoy the activity. I want to attract more members because it is beneficial to the entire school if a large portion of the student body is participating in an activity that requires constant critical thinking. I would also like to impart unto the new members what I have learned over the past few years with regards to Model UN in order to better prepare them for HAMUN. As a leader, I would be willing to devote much of my time an energy to running the club and ensuring that it is as welcoming as possible.

1. In what ways can the Model UN experience be enhanced / improved? How can you assist in doing this?

One potential way in which Model UN can be improved at St. John’s is having a few meetings before HAMUN to discuss how the committees tend to function and have mock sessions. While in the past we have had meetings to address the mechanics of such sessions (e.g. the process of passing a resolution or how the sessions are structured), I do not believe that they provide a sufficient picture for newcomers about what to actually expect at the conference. I can help run these meetings as a result of my past experience, as I would be able to discuss different blocs that formed in response to issues I have addressed in past committees.

1. What other leadership experience do you have? Is there anything you learned from those experiences that would make you a strong candidate for leadership in Model UN?

I am currently the president of Philosophy Club, the co-president of MicroFinance Club, and an officer of YLO. Through these roles, I have had experience planning and leading informational meetings, coordinating volunteer work with the University of Houston SURE MicroFinance initiative, and planning and leading the school walkout. Completing these tasks has taught me how to plan and run meetings quickly and efficiently and also how to get more people to join club activities. Both of these skills will help me effectively lead Model UN. Additionally, through Philosophy Club I have had experience teaching newcomers how to participate in Ethics Bowl, another academic competition. I believe this experience in particular has prepared me well to lead Model UN because the same abilities would be required to teach newcomers in the meetings leading up to HAMUN.

1. Do you have any additional comments?

Thanks for reading my application!