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Ukraine in Turmoil

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

Although I am very interested in Model UN and the experiences it offers, I do not have any previous Model UN experience. However, I have been an active member in my high school's club participating and attending meetings regularly.

2. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

The crisis in Ukraine interests me for many reasons, first and foremost is President Yanukovich's decision to back out of a trade agreement with the EU. Due partly to its geographic location, and its relationships with neighboring countries, Ukraine serves as a connection between European trade, and Russia. The crisis in Ukraine demonstrates that the countries in the world truly are interconnected and that the things we take for granted as US citizens are not possible in other countries. Because of the completely different parties involved, mainly the EU and Russia, I am also interested as to how a solution will evolve from this deeply entrenched crisis and how I can contribute to creating possible resolutions to this situation with other delegates.

3. What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine's relationship with both the West and with Russia?

One of the biggest factors that influence Ukraine's relationship with both the West and Russia is the economic impact Ukraine has on both of these countries. Because Ukraine and Russia share such a complicated history Russia shares historic and ethnic bonds with the Ukraine as well as economic ties that are hard to sever, even as the times are changing and the Ukrainian people push to become more "westernized" like many European nations. Ukraine finds it necessary to find a balance between the strong ties to Russia and the growing desire to join the European Union.

4. The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

The annexation of Crimea, while potentially understandable, was a crime. When annexing Crimea, Russia is thought to have violated several international laws related to the territorial and political independence of the Ukraine. Although Russia argues that Crimea used to be an integral part of their country and claims that the people of Crimea wish to join Russia, the Republic of Crimea is not recognized as its own country, but as a part of Ukraine, which the Russian's militarily invaded and ignored. It is because of the military invasion and the violated UN Charter that the annexation of Crimea can be deemed as a crime.