

1. What is your past Model UN experience?
  1. Freshman year: PMUNC, Verbal Commendation. Sophomore year: RUMUN; ILMUNC, Verbal Commendation; SHUMUN, Best Delegate. Junior year: RUMUN; ILMUNC, Verbal Commendation. In the end of my junior year, I was elected to be the Deputy Secretary-General of my school's team. I helped to arrange our participation in JPSPMUN; when the US National Security Council (2001) debate floundered, I jumped in as George Tenet, armed with five minutes of mobile research and my background knowledge, and proceeded to arrange for the investigation and imprisonment of a treasonous Donald Rumsfeld and direct some of the first-ever experimental drone strikes in Afghanistan. This describes me well as a MUNner: I favor deliberate, effective, and immediate action over "promoting education for children in developing countries."
2. What do you think will cause the next major global conflict?
  1. Define a major global conflict. Many people would call the Ukrainian crisis global. If so, how are Bolivian quinoa farmers affected by it? (So it isn't global.) In the US, we often think of any international conflict which involves us as a "global conflict." (American exceptionalism and hubris at its best.) I would argue that the next major global conflict will be the climate crisis. This issue will quite literally affect everyone on the earth. No matter any one country's finances, carbon emissions, geographic location, or official policies regarding the existence of climate change, a lack of action will result in the extinction of not only the entire human race, but also of all known life in the universe. While we may have the moral authority to extinguish ourselves, we may not allow all life to die. Furthermore, I would prefer not to be extinguished, nor would the 400,000 other global citizens with whom I marched at the NYC People's Climate March.
3. What is your favorite Utopian future and why?
  1. The space station in the 2013 movie *Elysium*. Essentially, the very wealthy have built a indescribably utopian space station, aptly named Elysium, orbiting the earth and inhabit it full time. Of course, the ruined earth, on which live billions and billions of the poor, is what makes the movie dystopian. While the quality of life on Elysium wouldn't mean much without the drastic comparison to life on earth, it is still very exciting to see an independent, man-made "planet" which is completely self-sustainable. (After all, are utopias even real? Our world today is a utopia compared to the lives of our pre-historic human ancestors. And yet we could easily enumerate many of the significant problems our world faces.)
4. What is your favorite dystopian future and why?
  1. *Ender's Game* by Orson Scott Card. Card brings an incredible element of humanity to the science fiction of the novel. Even though the United Space Command uses Ender for ostensibly good purposes, the reader is still exposed to the moral and emotional pain felt by Ender regarding his direction of the massacre of the Buggers and his separation from Valentine.
5. Is it easier to imagine the end of the world or the end of capitalism? Briefly imagine one of them.
  1. As long as people are capable of communication, there will be capitalism. Even if capitalism were illegal, if you and I have baseball cards (more probably, Chocolate Frog cards?) which we wish to exchange, there is very little any government could do to stop that exchange from happening. I think that the end of the world will come with the

depletion of the earth's resources. I'm not talking mainly about oil and natural gas; I'm talking about things like the helium trapped in the earth's crust and the point at which we can no longer fill expandable plastic with that gas and call it a balloon. Obviously the disappearance of balloons isn't the end of the world, but it's the beginning of the end. After that, we run out of neodymium, and we don't have buckyballs. Then we run out of Yttrium and Lanthanum, and we can no longer make circuitry for iPhones. Then no one can communicate, and the world ceases to function. Capitalism assumes that demand dictates supply; but when there is no supply, demand cannot be supplied, and the genuine needs of the world are left unfulfilled.

6. Where will you be in 2050?

1. Representing the Federated States of the Americas as their Ambassador to the United Nations. But if that doesn't pan out, I want to be working internationally in the US's foreign service or as an employee of the UN or an NGO, applying my knowledge of chemistry and engineering to improve the lives of people, while simultaneously learning that people's language and culture. By 2050, I'll also hopefully have become fluent in at least seven of ten languages, the learning of which I have made my life-long goal (I am proficient at Spanish, and I read and write Latin. I'm currently learning Ancient Greek and Portuguese. I want to learn Arabic, Mandarin, Japanese, German, French, and Hindi.)