1. I have participated in Model UN for the past three years. I have attended both the Pitt and Westminster Model UN Conferences in 2012, 2013, and 2014. In 2013, I have received delegation awards at both of these conferences. I have also been a delegate at Model European Union in 2012. I participated in Model African Union in 2012 and 2013. I was a delegate at Duquesne Model UN in 2012, 2013, and 2014. I attended Johns Hopkins Model UN in 2013 and 2014, where I was awarded an honorable mention. I have also taken part in my high school’s training conference, the Riverview Model UN conference. In 2012 and 2013 I have participated as a delegate, and I was a co-chair at RMUNC this year. I was a delegate in Bismarck’s Cabinet during the Prussian Unification at Princeton Model UN last year.
2. I am interested in this committee because of its unique topic. I have never been in a committee about Liberia before, and it is very intriguing. Because the committee is set in 2005, I am interested to see how the delegates solve Liberia’s infrastructure problems compared to how it was addressed in real life. I think this is one of the most important times in Liberia because in 2005, a new president was appointed and was attempting to stabilize the war-stricken country. There is much to be done, such as solving the drug abuse problem in the country, and finding out ways to decrease gang activity. Also, to counteract and eventually eradicate rape, there must be laws established to decriminalize victims and enforce harsh punishment for attackers. In order to eliminate children being sent to war as soldiers, the government needs to provide a minimum age that soldiers are allowed to enlist. In order for this to be enforced, the military needs to be more closely tied with the government and granted a stronger overseeing body to ensure children under the minimum age aren’t smuggled into war. For any of these changes to be made, Liberia needs to build up their economy and infrastructure.
3. I do not have any prior knowledge on this topic, and that is one reason I find it so intriguing.
4. Mostly, I want to gain knowledge from this committee. Because I do not know a lot about the topic, there is a great deal to learn. I am specifically interested in seeing how the delegates work to eradicate rape and sexual assault in Liberia. This is currently one of the most pressing issues in many countries because they lack a sufficient punishment for attackers and rapists. Without establishing these punishments, the human rights issues in Liberia will continue. I also hope to see how the delegates’ solutions differ from that of the real Liberian Cabinet. I know many of the issues Liberia was struggling with in 2005 are still major problems in the country, so I’d like to see what we do differently to result in a better short term success.
5. My favorite word is abrasive. I like this word because of its onomatopoeic qualities-the words’ pronunciation embodies its definition. When spoken aloud, the word seems to be rough and scratching, just like its meaning. I find abrasive to be the perfect word to describe the personalities of several people I know. Although the word has a negative connotation, I like that in actuality, it can be used as a compliment to mean aggressively fierce and harsh. Because this definition is so similar to the more cutting one, it is difficult to differentiate between the two. This is great part in why I enjoy the word so much; little separates a person from being abrasive in a negative and complimentary way, even though this fine line can distinguish a fierce person from a heartless one. I find that especially during conferences and heated debate, often my fellow delegates and I are arguing in a way that could only be described as abrasive.