Mackenzie Osborn

Model UN

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Princeton Application

Cabinet of Liberia:

**What is your past Model UN experience?**

I have been involved in Model UN since my freshman year of high school and ever since I began, I have participated in numerous conferences around the Pittsburgh area and select travel conferences for both my freshman and sophomore years. The conferences where I have participated locally include the University of Pittsburgh, where I shared the Best Delegation Award of the Russian Federation in my sophomore year, Duquesne University, where I was Luxembourg my sophomore year that placed third in the conference, and Westminster College. Due to local conferences, I have excellent experience with general assembly rooms. For travel conferences, I have participated at Princeton University and Johns Hopkins University for my freshman and sophomore years. In my freshman year at Princeton, I was the Minister of Communications in the 1999 Russia-Chechnya conflict and my sophomore year; I was awarded Outstanding Delegate for my role as the Vice President in the Syrian Regime and their conflict with Syria. In my freshman year at Johns Hopkins, I participated as Germany in the SOCHUM committee and in my sophomore year at Johns Hopkins, I acted as the Vice President of the Syrian Regime in the Joint Crisis between the Syrian Regime and Assad’s Cabinet.

**Why are you interested in joining this committee?**

I am interested in joining this committee because I have always found countries in Africa an interesting topic to discuss due to the difference in the Africans’ lives compared to the Americans’ lives. Their culture has always intrigued me because it is so exciting and has very interesting aspects. Also, the common issues associated with Africa are issues I love to discuss because there are so many different solutions to solve the many conflicts. Liberia, especially, has been a topic of interest to me considering the current Ebola outbreak and has become my focus ever since the emergence. The fact that Liberia was Africa’s first republic gives the country so much character and an example for other countries to follow. Also, the military coup and Charles Taylor gaining power was a riveting topic to learn. Finally, the election of Africa’s first female president in 2005 showed the leadership in Liberia and their desire to establish a social power of women and establish the importance of their rights in the country.

**Do you have any prior knowledge about the topic? If so, please provide examples.**

Because this topic is so interesting to me, I have plenty of knowledge that I could apply to this committee to benefit myself and other delegates. First of all, I find Ellen Johnson Sirleaf a fascinating individual due to her incredible intelligence about finance and politics and her drive to establish women’s rights. Her leadership with preventing sedition by charging opposing candidates shows her leadership skills; her financial knowledge allowed her to relieve the national debt. Her commission to “promote national peace, security, unity and reconciliation” permitted her to investigate the past civil wars of Liberia. Her extensive knowledge and policies have created a concrete stable state for the Liberians, which has lasted from 2005 until the present.

**What do you hope to get out of this committee?**

I hope to extend my knowledge about the Republic of Liberia by being able to discuss the issues during this time period of the country. I also hope be able to utilize my prior knowledge to engage other delegates on discussion about the issues facing Liberia. Lastly, I hope to learn more about crisis committees, even though I have participated in three crisis committees, I am always learning more as a delegate and student.

**What is your favorite word?**

My favorite word is nonchalant. It is my favorite word because it has a fun pronunciation and it comes from the roots of French, which is the language I am currently enrolled in for the fourth year. Also, I am about 10% French, so the word not only connects with my heritage, it is a word that suggests a more interesting outcome.