Emily Kahn

Choice 1: Cabinet of the Republic of Liberia

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

* I have attended four MUN conferences: YMUN 2013, PMUNC 2013, YMUN 2014, and CMUNC 2014. I have represented Brazil in the International Maritime Organization, Mexico in the Committee on UN Reform, South Africa in the UN Committee on Sustainable Development, and Friedrich Albrecht von Eulenburg in the Committee on German Unification (Council of Bismarck). I won Best Position Paper for my role as Eulenburg at PMUNC 2013 and Outstanding Delegate for my role as Brazil at YMUN 2014. In addition, I was part of the Outstanding Small Delegation at CMUNC 2014. Outside of official conferences, I served as the Secretary General in my school’s sophomore MUN simulation. I also currently serve as a mentor for my peers who are new to MUN. Finally, I have had regular experience practicing the MUN skill of public speaking through being a Historical Interpreter (aka Tour Guide) at the Nantucket Historical Association.

1. Why are you interested in joining this committee?

* I am interested in joining this committee because I want to be in a smaller group in order for my voice to be more directly heard. Last year at PMUNC, I was in a committee of 14 people and was able to hear the voices of everyone around the table while being able to have a large role in the committee. In a smaller committee, everyone is more likely to be engaged, causing the environment to be more dynamic. For example, we managed to start WWI 30 years early in my previous PMUNC committee that was also a council. Since I have experience being a person rather than a country and participating in a committee with a similar structure as this one, I feel prepared to tackle these challenges in a productive way. In addition, the topic of Liberia is fascinating to me.

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

* Although I do not have a ton of prior knowledge about the topic, I am a fast learner. For example, I discovered at 1 in the morning the day of the conference that I was attending YMUN 2014 as Brazil in the IMO. I knew almost nothing about this topic but did as much research as I could in the short amount of time I was given. Due to this hard work and fast research, I went on to win Outstanding Delegate in that committee. If given more time to prepare, I am able to become nearly fluent in a topic, which is why I feel I could succeed in this committee. Nevertheless, I do have some background knowledge about Liberia. I find it quite ironic and unfortunate that a country whose name means liberty and was colonized by freed slaves could be jeopardized by civil war. War generally leads to loss of liberty, especially when there are domestic clashes. The fight between the indigenous people and descendants of colonizers of Liberia brought major turmoil to the country. I hope that by going back to 2003 when the civil wars finally ended that we could find a way to stabilize Liberia. It may even be possible that we could prevent Ebola from becoming a major plague of today in Liberia.

1. What do you hope to get out of this committee?

* I hope to be challenged by a topic that is relatively unfamiliar to me and by my fellow experienced delegates. In addition, I would like to become faster at problem solving; I feel a crisis committee would be perfect for this goal since the situation in the country is constantly changing during the simulation. Finally, I hope to be able to get to know all of my fellow delegates since this committee is quite small in comparison to others.

1. What is your favorite word?

* My favorite word is history. I believe that all the solutions for present day problems can be influenced and developed through researching events of the past. If chosen for this committee, I would explore the history of Liberia to try to discover ways to reform the country.