**Cabinet of the Republic of Liberia**

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

During my four years in high school, I have competed in many Model UN conferences, including Cornell, Georgetown, and Johns Hopkins Model UN conferences. My most notable experience at Model UN is the time winning the best delegate award at the North American Invitational Model UN conference in Washington DC. That was perhaps the most work I have ever put into Model UN, and it was definitely rewarding and a great experience. In other realms, I have acted and debated for years, and I personally believe those skills will be beneficial during a Model UN conference.

2. Why are you interested in joining this committee?

I am interested in joining the committee on the Cabinet of the Republic of Liberia because, quite frankly, before preliminary research, I had very little knowledge on the topic. I am always intrigued by new challenges and strange ideas. After doing some investigation on the topic, the committee peaked my interest even further. While I knew that Liberia was established by former African American slaves, I had no idea of the incredible turmoil the country has faced over the past twenty years. Having faced two civil wars in fourteen years, it is a surprise that Liberia is a country that still stands formidable today.

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

The primary knowledge I had was basic, but after doing research on the topic, I was immediately captivated by Liberia’s incredibly volatile history. I am especially intrigued by the incredible amounts of corruption that occurs in the political realm. For example, freedomhouse.org ranks Liberia’s political freedom as a 5 out of 7, with 1 being the most free and 7 being the least free. An instance of political corruption is former President Charles Taylor, who was accused by the United Nations of supplying revolutionaries of the Sierra Leone Civil War with weapons and aid in exchange for diamonds. He was also charged multiple times with embezzlement. Other interesting topics are the two civil wars that Liberia faced over a fourteen-year span in the 1990s.

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

I would love to get a greater understanding for the Liberian Cabinet. In addition, this topic is a great way for me to refine my debate and writing skills, along with my research ability. Since it’s a topic I know admittedly little about, I will need to work hard to research the necessary topics.

5. What is your favorite word?

My favorite word is blatherskite. A blatherskite is a person who talks too much with making very little sense. While I never use the word blatherskite, it’s idea is incredibly applicable to debate and speech. When I attempt to convince people of my point, I try to be as succinct and coherent as possible. For if I am not, I tend to lose the focus of my audience. I love how there is a very concise word to represent someone who is not known for being concise.