1. What is your past Model UN experience?

In past years, I have been involved in many different activities relating to Model UN. I have attended a few conferences in each of the last two years. In addition to this, I have been very involved in theater at my school as well as the debate team so I am very comfortable speaking in front of a crowd. I also was involved in my school’s Foreign Affairs Club, which focused on foreign policy through simulations, for my freshman and sophomore years.

1. What interests you about the Ukrainian crisis?

I am interested in the Ukraine crisis because it is interesting to see how all of the world powers handle Russia’s actions. There are many different factors that could impact how different countries and organizations, most notably the US and the EU, handle the situation in Ukraine so I am very intrigued to see the international response. I am especially intrigued by the EU response and whether they will take a hard line against Russia.

1. What are some of the major factors that influence Ukraine’s relationship with both the West and with Russia?

Ukraine is ethnically similar to Russia, especially in the East and in Crimea. Many Crimeans identify with Russia ethnically, which is a large factor in the crisis in Ukraine, because it could effect public opinion in the epicenter of the conflict. Another major factor is the presence of oil in Ukraine, which, it can be argued, is responsible for Russia’s apparent interest in Ukraine and Crimea specifically.

1. The annexation of Crimea—justifiable or a crime? Why? Be concise, be specific.

I believe that Russia’s annexation of Crimea is a crime because it violates the sovereignty of a nation. Regardless of the political climate in Ukraine, Russia has no right to annex Crimea without Ukrainian consent of reparations paid to Ukraine. To simply take a piece of land from a sovereign nation is inexcusable and Russia should be reprimanded as a result.