Security Council 2050

1. What is your past Model UN experience?

I have done Model UN for 4 years now, and I am currently in my 5th year. I started in seventh grade, and I participated in the Global Classrooms UNAUSA Model UN conference for Middle School students in seventh and eighth grade. In ninth grade I graduated to the high school conferences. I have attended a total of 6 collegiate conferences and 2 high school conferences (4 each year, namely BUSUN, JHUMUNc, WAMUNC, and HoMMUNc), and I have won one Best Delegate award, three Outstanding Delegate awards, and a couple Honorable mentions, and one verbal commendation. I also do Speech & Debate, which is in some ways similar to Model UN yet also very dissimilar, yet I feel that both have defined me as a person, a debater, and as a delegate.

2. What do you think will cause the next major global conflict?

I think that resource wars will cause the next major global conflict. There are many resources that could be fought over, such as oil, water, minerals, or even land. Whatever resource becomes scarce, the price will climb exponentially, and people will clamber for it. In times of crisis such as these, it is easy for a military leader to rise up and fight nationalistic wars. Existing international conflicts will become more important, and with higher demand on these resources, all nations will have a vested interest in even minor conflicts. Nations generally tend to function as rational actors; however, with a lack of resources small problems become magnified and war becomes harder to avoid.

3. What is your favorite utopian future and why?

My favorite utopian future involves the creation of one government that unifies the entire world. This is obviously not very feasible, and I was introduced to this idea at a young age. While it was never explained fully, it caused me to really have a goal in life and a belief that the UN could become a more powerful international body. As I have grown, I have begun to appreciate the UN for it’s more reliable yet less flashy purpose, to serve as a forum for communication, but I still hold on to the idea of one large country. Obviously, there would be perfect freedoms, and all people would have their cultures and personal lives respected, yet the government would also provide for all those who need. While this utopia is more absurd than most philosophize about, the word utopia literally implies a non-existence, and I feel that this utopia provides me a goal that I believe the international community should trend towards.

4. What is your favorite dystopian future and why?

My favorite dystopian future is the military-industrial complex combining with technological progress to control the people. While this future has been romanticized by many novels in which the protagonist is a hacker or special for some other reason and is able to combat the government, I still find it appealing for two reasons. The first is that it is very realistic, considering how involved the government is in our lives, especially through the internet. Secondly, I find it compelling because it is possible that we are living in this society in which the government controls all knowledge, and we would have no way of knowing.

-- A great novel regarding a dystopian future is *Little Brother* by Cory Doctorow.

5. Is it easier to imagine the end of the world or the end of capitalism? Briefly imagine one of them.

I think it is easier to imagine the end of capitalism then the end of the world. This is because as the world started to fall apart, capitalism would also devolve. I think it is highly possible that capitalism and neoliberalism could cause the world to degenerate, but at some point, the issues with the world would become so large that people would become very isolated, deconstruction our current global form of capitalism. As people transitioned away from capitalism, the world would likely become less afflicted, and thus the world would not end but capitalism would.

6. Where will you be in 2050?

I am not sure where I’ll be in 2050. I have three main passions: math, computer science, and political science/public speaking. With luck, I will be able to graduate college as a computer scientist, but by 2050 I will have entered the world of politics and/or diplomacy. I would be very happy working in the UN in 2050. At the same time, I would be very happy as professor of math, or even a freelance coder.

Cabinet of the Republic of Liberia

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2. Why are you interested in joining this committee?

I know very little about Liberia, yet I feel that Africa is a very important part of our global community, and will be increasingly so in the future. I would love to take this opportunity to both research and live the problems facing Africa, specifically Liberia, today. I also enjoy most crisis committees in general.

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

I do not.

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

I mainly hope to learn about Liberia. Africa is a topic unaddressed by much of our curriculum in social studies, and I feel that a Model UN committee on Liberia would not only be fun and engaging but also very informative and enlightening.

5. What is your favorite word?

Incredulously. It was used in a random scene in Harry Potter and The Goblet of Fire, and I have been very entertained by the word since third grade. It not only holds many memories of a time where I was determined to get accepted to Hogwarts but is also very fun to sigh, and has a nice meaning. I generally try to use it in conversation (especially when appropriate), and I love when people take note.