

Artifact 1 — International Affairs Statement Asher Kasper

I first became interested in international affairs pretty early in my life. I always liked following the news, and when the Russian invasion of Ukraine happened, I remember watching with horror not only at the destruction but at how little real action the international community seemed willing to take. That was the first time I really started to think seriously about how global politics works, and what happens when nations fail to respond.

My community also shaped this interest. I grew up in Tallahassee in a small Jewish community that felt like it could only survive through its connection to the broader Jewish world. That became clear to me on October 7th, when I was sitting in the youth group lounge at my shul and heard about the attacks. What shocked me most wasn't only the violence, but the way so much of the world responded, often directing hatred at the victims themselves. Those victims are my people, and seeing how quickly the conversation shifted made international politics feel personal in a way it hadn't before.

What motivates me now is the goal of going into diplomacy, where I can give accurate and truthful reports and help shape policy that is well informed rather than distorted. I imagine myself being part of conversations with diplomats, students, and activists who are debating the biggest issues of our time — conflict and peace, security, minority rights, and the responsibilities nations have toward one another. I love that this field connects real people's lives to global decisions, and I want to be part of building policies that reflect truth, understanding, and justice.