

Name: Raya Alami

Grade 11

Favorite quote: “Speak softly and carry a big stick; you will go far.” -Theodore Roosevelt

Favorite conference: AMMUN XXIII

Everything increases in value when its abundance decreases; that is a principle of life. I was taught young that the same was true for words. To this day, some of the brightest individuals fail to understand the pure value words hold. As a child, I abided by the belief that I didn’t need to be the loudest in class to be the smartest. Often, the loudest—even if all-knowing—is not aware of the power they lose when speaking for the sake of speaking. One must come to the realization that true authority is established when words are chosen wisely.

As I grew older, once past the age where the world’s cruelty is censored, I began to apply my principle to political contexts as soon as I signed up for AMMUN XXII in the ninth grade. It being my first ever AMMUN conference, I was placed in an SPC court, the International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), in which I was a judge. At first glance, a judge’s role in an AMMUN conference may seem minimal, but with closer inspection, the role becomes one of the most crucial when exercised correctly. The contentious case being tried was one of the many fascinating political dilemmas of our time. As a judge, I exerted my work ethic into studying its intricacies prior to the conference, not to speak the most on the topic, but to be more informed when I did speak.

Navigating the rest of the conference with my principle engraved at the back of my mind, I discovered a deepening passion for international law and relations. As a judge, I profoundly enjoyed watching the advocates closely; scrutinizing every argument, searching for nuances in the justice framework, and shaping my political opinion solely based on the words they chose to express. This experience reiterated the extent to which carefully chosen words can manipulate political viewpoints. In the stages of judge deliberation that followed, my measured insights did not go unnoticed, showing me that precision was valued over excessive participation. From that moment, I regarded AMMUN as the platform which strengthened how I carry myself through words. That being said, whether you are an advocate or a judge, whether it is your first court experience or your tenth, I hope AMMUN reminds you of the political impact words carry.

Contact information: raya_alami@abs.edu.jo