Grade: 11

Favourite quote: “Where all think alike, no one thinks very much.” – Walter Lippmann

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Favourite conference: AMMUN XXIV

I have always been curious about why people think the way they do and why there are so many conflicting voices in our world. I found it fascinating how the same issue can be understood in a completely different way depending on the perspective you approach it from. This curiosity is what drew me to Model United Nations (MUN), where I found an opportunity to form my own ideas, defend them, and understand and challenge other perspectives.

I participated in my first MUN conference in the 8th grade and was in the Advisory Panel. At the time, I knew very little about MUN. I did not know how to write a strong resolution or an engaging speech. I didn’t know how I could persuade a room of opposing views to pass my resolution and to hear my voice. Soon, as I learnt more about MUN and as the conference progressed, I developed my arguments, learned to debate, and gained confidence to respond to opposing views. When I finally stood up on the podium to defend my delegation’s stance, I realised how much I truly enjoyed MUN and debate.

MUN has taught me a wide range of important skills, including thorough research, public speaking, critical thinking, and communication skills. It taught me how to voice my argument and persuade other delegates, while showing me that the strongest arguments aren’t necessarily the loudest ones, but those that can withstand criticism and are open to change. Most importantly, MUN taught me the value of being open-minded and understanding the reasoning behind different perspectives. MUN has taught me to look beyond my own perspective, to recognise that there are multiple approaches to the same issue, and that there is rarely one right answer to an issue.

Throughout my MUN experience, I have been in many committees and taken on different roles. However, I constantly find myself returning to the Advisory Panel. I particularly enjoy the Advisory Panel as it follows an ad hoc structure and allows us to immerse ourselves in one topic, which we explore from economic, social, and humanitarian aspects.

I first joined the Advisory Panel as a delegate, later returned as chair, and I am now proud to serve as its President. With that being said, I hope to give you an engaging and memorable experience this year at AMMUN XXV.

Yasmine Al-Assaf

President of the Advisory Panel