

Climate War Game 1: Individual Reflection

Going into the first war game, I was not really sure what to expect. I am someone who likes to have crystal clear directions so that I know exactly what I have to do, and so I had a lot of questions as to what exactly what was required for this war game and how it was going to run. I had gotten enough answers, but was still was unconfident that I knew what I had to do. Much of my preparation for this war game was centered around uncertainty. I was uncertain of how the war game was going to proceed, what our presentations should be like, and how much time we would have to prepare for this war game, just to give a few examples.

As someone who isn't science oriented, I was really glad that I had to research US-India collaborations, something related to my field of interest, but also science related at the same time. I am very interested in international relations, but was never really concerned with Asia-North America relations. Usually, my concentration of study in terms of international relations is Latin America. I enjoyed researching US-India collaborations, I did not realize how much the United States and India had collaborated in recent times.

At first, I was unsure if there was any relevant information about US-India collaborations in terms of water. I did not understand why the United States would care at all about the water in India, since it has no impact on them. However, I came across a lot of research between the two countries relating to water, and found out that the United States has actually done a lot to help out India with their water situation, since the demand for water in India exceeds the supply of usable water. Prime Minister Modi and President Barack Obama have also tried, so far successfully, to form good relations between the two countries. They very recently, as in within the past year or so, have visited each other's countries, and were met with a great reception. Their talks focused a lot on climate change, agreeing to help each other out in curbing climate

change. After reading about Obama and Modi's visits to each other's countries, I have high hopes that they will remain on good terms and continue climate change discussions, sparking others around the world.

I was also very confused at first about what exactly was being asked of my team, in terms of what we wanted as the water team. There were no finite resources to be allocated, so we did not understand at first how or what to ask for. We could not say, "Well there is a total of \$1 million, so the water team wants at least half of that." We had to make policies that benefitted Team Water, and we eventually figured out how to make such policies. At first, I thought it might have been more helpful if there were finite resources that we had to allocate, but as the war game went on, I understood why we did not have finite resources to work with. It would have been harder to negotiate with a set amount of resources.

I was chosen to present the initial presentation, detailing our research and our policy recommendations. The presentation was around twenty minutes. Being an international business major, I have had to do a lot of presentations, but I was still pretty nervous. When doing presentations, I typically like to completely understand the topic that I am presenting on. However, climate change science, and science in general, is a topic I struggle with understanding completely, so it was a challenge for me to learn all of the information from my teammates and give a knowledgeable presentation. At first, I was not confident that I could take this information and relay it to the rest of the teams and stakeholders accurately, but my teammates did a wonderful job of teaching me the information so that I at least looked like I knew what I was talking about. Those twenty minutes seemed like some of the longest minutes of my life. I was terrified that I was going to mess up or miss a fact and that I was going to let my team down,

which is what I was most nervous about while presenting. I do not believe that I did too badly of a job, and I definitely gained more confidence in presenting.

I did not really engage in much debating during the war game. This is because when I debate, I like to know exactly what the topic is about. I do not like to debate when I am uncertain of the topic, because I do not want to say something completely wrong because I am uneducated about the subject. I had done research before the war game, obviously, but I did not know what this war game was going to be like, so I did not know specifically what I should have researched, other than the topic I was given. I mostly just sat back and listened to debates, learning from the negotiations occurring between my team and the others. Team Water chose to center our policies on building dams in India. Because of this, we had to do a lot of research during our breaks about dams. As a result, I now know more about dams than I did before this war game, but was not confident at the time to debate about it.

This war game definitely pushed me out of my comfort zone. I try to stay away from science related things, so to be thrust into a situation where pretty much everything is science related is terrifying for me. I am glad I was put in this position though, because now I know that I can be a part of climate change talks and actually have something to add to the conversation. I also now have more self confidence in my presenting abilities, because I gave a presentation on a subject in which I did not feel that I knew all too well, and still was able to understand it. I am definitely less afraid to give presentations now, especially pertaining to science related subjects. I was also very nervous about this war game due to the little time we had to prepare. Wifi in India is not as great as it is in America, something I appreciate more now. On top of the lack of good wifi, we were moving around a lot, hindering the amount of time that we had to research. I was worried that our presentations would not be as good as they could have been because of this time

Chynna Lewis
CIVE 4777

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Professor Ganguly

constraint, but I was really pleased with how the presentations turned out. We did what we could have done in the time allotted, and the Water Team definitely used that time to its fullest capacity to create an informed presentation.

Overall, I enjoyed participating in the war game. Everyone on this dialogue is so incredibly intelligent, which made the war game more challenging. It was not easy for the water team to maximize their demands, which I enjoyed. I definitely would not have enjoyed participating in the war game if it was easy for us as Team Water to get what we wanted. We had to fight for our priorities. I enjoy debating, both the action itself and listening to debates, so I really enjoyed listening to the negotiations. I look forward to the next war game, because that is centered on international policies concerning climate change, a topic I feel more comfortable with.