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War Game 1 Individual Reflection

It all began with research. After hours of bus rides, visiting attractions, and interesting academic sessions, our days ended with research that would be used for the first war game. As the game neared, the pressure was on to gather as much information as possible to support the energy sector. Not only was supporting my sector important, attacking other sectors was necessary. Due to the heat of the rapidly approaching war game and the literal heat outside, many people were getting sick whether it was from the food, heat, mental or physical exhaustion. It was interesting to see how the stress affected each person as the games grew closer. Our group mostly just struggled to find time to meet due to exhaustion and dehydration.

On the day of the war game, there was still a frenzy. For my group specifically, there were group members who had not pulled their weight. Not meeting with our group often and lacking communication, there were many difficulties that came to light and displayed a lack of organization. On the morning of the game, the official PowerPoint was finally created. After having to completely change slides due to members not understanding their parts, many new slides had to be created the day of. As the presenter for my group, I woke up extra early to rehearse. Having compiled the slides late, I did not know some of the new information added. This created uneasiness as I headed into the war games room.

As each group presented, I learned a lot more about India's current state and all the necessary infrastructure it needed to improve society. Each group had merit to why their sector was the most important. The more closely I listened, the more I saw how much work was needed

within India. In my own head, I was comparing the needs of India to those of the United States. In a way, the United States was a hypocrite. There were many instances like, with water and with energy, where the US didn't follow policies that they encouraged other countries to follow.

After two presentations, it came time for my group, energy, to present. Taking a breath before going to the front of the room, I got ready for the thirty minute presentation that had, last minute, been reduced to twenty minutes. The presentation went well other than the fact that I read very fast. There was a lot of information and history that was necessary to know in order to give propositions. In the end, I portrayed the Energy sector's demands for thorium nuclear energy, research and development of renewables, and better infrastructure resources. These were very important due to the high demand for rural electrification, and better integration of all the energy sources. In addition, due to the fact that non renewables were finite, finding new sources of energy were mandatory. Although the research part had been interesting, presenting was exhilarating. Many students were paying attention in order to find points in my presentation to counter during negotiations. Due to this, it was necessary to watch exactly what I said to make sure that it didn't compromise my sector. In the end, all the presentations went smoothly. They were completely within the time limit and displayed the hard work of each of the sectors. The part that really brought to light problems with each sector's propositions were the question and answers section after each teams presentations. There were problems with each side that were alluded to during the sector's presentation as to not create waves for their team, but these were brought up during the questioning section. It was interesting to see how each team dealt with their answers. Whether it was showing that the benefits outweigh the costs, or completely shooting down the questions, each team found a way to combat the majority of the questions tossed at them.

The next part of the climate war games was the negotiations phase. This was intense and adrenaline-charged. Arguing with other teams secretly and publically about the issues with their plans, our team energy combatted all the arguments against us. The biggest opponent to our team was industry who were considered the “big bad guys,” due to the fact that they were necessary in order for India’s economy to continue to grow but emitted the most greenhouse gases out of all sectors. Although, while each individual group was presenting it seemed like their sector was the most important sector, in the end, it was seen that all the sectors were very closely tied. Industry knew they needed energy in order to survive so they ended up working closely with us.

As the negotiations continued into a big group discussions, some great battles were started. Although energy was not directly involved in the arguments, all sides would create problems for the energy sector. Getting involved, big disputes were brought to light. The biggest problems were between the water and the industry teams. In the end, a decision couldn't be reached on many issues.

These negotiations really exposed how politics worked in real life. Being focused on one sector was very difficult because all the sectors were so intricately linked. If one sector suffered, all the others would too. On the other hand, people in each sector are also much focused on gaining the most resources even though their issues may not be as important as another team’s issue. This created a real battle internally on whether the improvement of society as a whole or gathering the most resources for your team was most important.

This day ended with a lot of compromise but some inherent disagreement. It was enthralling to see how involved all sides acted. Each team seemed to fully take on their sectors traits. Being immersed in this war game showed the excitement that was associated with people who were passionate, and the necessity of preparation in order to combat other teams. The first

war game has made me very excited for the next games. Knowing what to expect, I know that each team will do their research and come to the table with arguments to support their stances for their sector for the Second War Game.