

Topic Proposal: Public Policy

My topic of study this year is Public Policy, within the policy sector I am currently interested in focusing on educational policies. With this program, I intend to expand my knowledge of the legislative process and government systems.

From a young age, my family would talk to me about real issues and policies that affected people in our country. The news was always on in my house, so initially I wanted to become a journalist. The first election that I remember was in 2020, and I wanted to get a taste of what political reporting entailed. I created a political blog where I would post updates about the election and my personal thoughts on different policies. That summer, one of my teachers introduced me to the Scholastic Kids Press program for young journalists. I worked for them and gained more insight as to what the news field was truly like. After this experience, I took journalism my freshman year of high school; I loved working within the news field but I realized it wasn't a profession I could see myself doing as a career. The area of news I was most excited about was political journalism. I realized I was more passionate about the government and policy portion of the news as opposed to the reporting aspect. This was also shown to me through my debate class where I realized how much I enjoyed learning and talking about different policies and viewpoints on issues. I competed in Debate UIL for Extemporaneous speech and placed 6th in my district. With this achievement, I decided to look into other opportunities that would teach me about government and policy. This led to auditioning for my school's Competitive Mock Trial team my sophomore year and co-founding a Model United Nations chapter here. Through my time in both of these clubs, I gained a better understanding of what it takes to become an attorney and realized I wanted to go into the legislative side of law. Now, I currently work for Leveled Legislation, a newspaper that advocates for gender equity. I am a Research Intern and Editor, so I am able to combine my love of journalism and policy to create real change in the world by advocating for women's rights.

According to the Myers-Briggs personality type indicator, I am an INFP, otherwise known as the Mediator. My personality type closely aligns with the traits necessary for working with policies: being able to compromise, empathy, open minded, and passionate. The reason I want to go into legislation is in order to change people's lives for the better. I believe my willingness to cooperate with other people will make the process easier and help enact changes that positively affect Americans. Additionally, INFPs are known for being passionate. During the interviews I conducted, I was told by real policy makers that the trait that separates their top colleagues from others is their passion for what they do. As a person with large goals and desire to make a difference, I hope to impact people for the better.