

Gustavo Flores
Weekly Journal
Week 5

My fifth week in Capitol Hill has been the most productive thus far. I have been assigned more work at the office writing constituent letters for our legislative staff and attending briefings on their behalf. Now that I am more familiar with my surroundings, I feel confident traveling around Capitol Hill without the constant fear of getting lost in the tunnels that connect each of the office buildings. The office where I'm interning is located in the Longworth Office Building; however, there have been times when I have had to deliver packages or attend briefings on the Senate side, located on the opposite end of the Capitol Building. The best and most efficient way of getting there is through an underground set of tunnels.

On Tuesday, while I was walking through the tunnels from the House to the Senate, I made a huge realization. The odds have always been against me, so walking through these halls and tunnels in our nation's capital serves as a reminder that hard work and perseverance is the true key to success. Last Friday, we had a discussion of what the American Dream meant to us and whether the American Dream was something that was still attainable. I personally feel like this is no longer a dream for me; I'm living the reality of the American Dream. More than ever before, I feel inspired to keep facing adversity with a smile on my face because I have learned that one's personal and professional growth is dictated by the risks that one takes.

With this in mind, I've also learned the importance of keeping a good balance between work and play. That is why on my free time, I like to explore the city. There are so many sites and museums to visit, but there is never enough time to do it all. On Sunday, Annabel and I went on a day-long adventure visiting all that we could in one day. First, we made our way to the Hirshhorn Museum where we witnessed art displays unlike anything that we had ever seen before. Next, we visited the Enid A. Haupt Garden; it was the perfect area to sit down and enjoy some ice cream. I appreciated spending this time with Annabel because we had the opportunity to get to know each other on a more personal level; I enjoyed her company and her sweet personality.

After our break at the garden, Anna and I proceeded to the Smithsonian Institution Museums, the Freer Gallery of Art and the Museum of African Arts. All of them were very fascinating in different ways. These museums exposed me to various customs and cultures through the power of art. By this time, Anna and I were really tired but we continued our adventure because our time in DC keeps getting shorter. From there, we wandered to the Botanic Garden; this was my favorite place of all. It was such a beautiful and peaceful environment and for a moment, it felt as if we were in a different place of the world and not in the District of Columbia.







