

I just completed my first week of my internship! I'm interning for Senator Gillibrand and I couldn't be happier. My office has 25 interns including me, and I like that because I always have someone to help me do what I need to do. So far things are good at the office. I learned how to do "batches", which is sorting constituents' letters and email into certain categories. I found that very easy and I actually really like it. For the first couple of days I didn't have any to sort so I would help the rest of the interns do "batching". It can get tedious, and it's one of those things that most people find boring, but I like it. I'm good at it so it makes me feel important and now I'm the one everyone asks for help. Ha-ha.

I also attended my first hearing which was very interesting. I didn't know what a hearing would be like, but now I do. The one I attended was on air pollution and, for me, it wasn't that interesting. Basically, in a hearing experts come and give information to the Senators so they can support a "bill" or an "act" that they are trying to get passed. I do plan on attending other hearings on foreign affairs, homeland security, or the armed services because those are the things that interest me the most.



Outside of work, I'm getting along great with the other CAMP interns. We recently went kayaking in the Potomac River and it was a fun experience. We all come from different states but its nice sharing our stories and finding our similarities and differences.

DC is all about networking, and at first I was having trouble networking because I wasn't finding that connection with the people I talked to. The conversations would get awkward and I could just tell this wasn't going anywhere. However, I went to a reception this past week and the speaker said that it doesn't matter if the person doesn't have your same interest, you can always find small connections. For example, if the person lives in a different state and you know a relative or friend from that state you can make a small connection through that. But that's how it starts. And it doesn't

always have to be about work related connections. I think that is the thing that stuck with me the most. I've attended two networking events and in both of them the people that I talked to didn't work in fields that interested me so I thought there could be no connection. But after Chris Ornelas, the host of the event from the National Association of Broadcasters, gave that tip I felt most comfortable and realized I don't necessarily have to talk about careers and future plans to be a good networker. When it was time to network at that event I think it went better than before. I ended up making connections with two people talking about our siblings and sports. After that day I was much happier because my networking skills were improving.