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Over past 4 years, I have learned that leadership doesn't mean that you are the loudest person in the world. Through my experiences in the leadership program, and at AU, I have learned that I have the ability to be a leader, despite not being an extrovert.

One of the ways in which I discovered this was through my political theory classes. Through these classes, I learned to challenge the status quo of society. For instance, I began to question if democracy was infallible as we believed by reading Tocqueville. After reading, I realized that the majority can have a negative impact on the minority. And now that I have discovered this, I can now take this lesson to my career in international affairs, when I possibly attempt to help developing countries around the world. And this is an example of how my perception of leadership changed. Leadership may involve just thinking critically about the world around us, and apply those concepts in order to make a difference.

In addition, through my group work, I also learned that leadership is not being the one running the group. It's about learning to work with other people. Furthermore, I was never the most talkative person in my group, but I always got along with people, and contributed to our team's goals. In addition, my experience through the class case studies have also broadened my horizons as well.

Through the case studies, I have learned that what is most important is that the leader understands his/her surroundings and adapts accordingly. For instance, the Katrina case study, in which there was no response, occurred because the government was not sure who was responsible, and whether it was states or federal. And this is an example of knowing who is best suited for a task. The federal government could have given supplies, while also allocating some responsibilities to the states. I hope to take my development across the Atlantic.

After college, I want to move to Europe in hopes that I can take my skills to establish ties between the US and Europe. Furthermore, I hope that the skills I learned, which were time management, the ability to evaluate others strengths and weaknesses, and the cross cultural communication skills enable me to work in France/ Belgium, and they have already been enhanced through my internships.

In the Summer of 2019, I went on a student foreign policy trip with the American Hellenic Institute which is an organization dedicated to teaching Americans about issues in the Eastern Mediterranean. On the trip, I met with the president of Greece, as well as various ambassadors. This trip was a leadership growth opportunity for me because I developed the ability to empathize with perspectives about issues from across the Atlantic. In the United States, we often live in an isolated environment without having a perspective on foreign issues, and this trip was an opening to expand my horizons.

All in all, I believe though that my identity has developed through my time in the leadership program and AU. Furthermore, I know that I will never be the most talkative person in the room. However, through my experiences and my critical thinking developments, I realize that I make positive impressions on people, and I never stop thinking. Both of these characteristics will enable me to be in a position to influence people, and in addition, create new solutions to international issues. The most famous thinkers did not influence the world by accepting the status opinion, they always questioned what they heard. And I hope one day that I can influence others when I make new discoveries.