Blog/Field Notes (Week of 10/26/2020)

Once again, this week no one showed up. I expected it, I am not surprised. However, my fellow ECAC volunteers and I discussed what our final presentations will look like. From 3-6pm on Mondays, Tatiana and I will be conducting research on educational inequity. Hopefully, we will be partners for the final project. This sounds very promising and I am very excited. The educational system is one of my interests. Learning about it further will be incredibly beneficial in understanding national/state policies now and in the future.

My week has been hectic. I am used to the amount of homework I must do every week. With midterms over, I feel relaxed. I feel sluggish at times. However, this sentiment is not new for this time of the school year. I have spent an immense number of hours on my journalism internship. I work Wellness for Everyone, Inc. This organizations works with Chicago Public Schools to fund educational arts and wellness programming. This week, I have been working on a government application to increase the funding we receive from the State of Illinois. It is an enormous application requiring countless financial and legal documents, many I created myself. The other interns did not do their share of the work either. So, I had to complete most of the documents. I do not mind it. Sometimes, I do feel frustrated because my projects have little to do with journalism. My work falls more under human resources. Nevertheless, I think I am my boss’s favorite (that is what she tells me), so I am hoping for a promotion in the future!

In addition, I am a field intern for Hillary Scholten for Congress. Because the election is next week, the other interns and I have been working extremely hard to make phone calls and recruit volunteers for our GOTV weekend. I will be participating everyday this weekend to make phone calls! I love working in politics, finding ways to get involved is rewarding. Voter turnout among the youth tends to be quite low. If I, a young voter, can make a difference, so can other people! Since high school, I have been involved in politics. It is rewarding. I would like to pursue criminal or constitutional law. Hence, politics is closely related to my professional aspirations .On Thursday, we had an intern bonding night. We did trivia. I love getting to know the other interns, so it was fun, and I needed a break.

I am stressed thinking about Tuesday. This election is giving me crippling anxiety. On a positive note, our mail-in ballots have been received. I have been trying to find in-person campaign events to participate in. My friends in Michigan have attended rallies. I would love to do the same. Illinois is a solid blue state, meaning politicians such as Joe Biden or Barack Obama do not come here. All energy is on battleground states/states with close polling margins (as it should be)!! I am not looking forward to next week. We will not know the winners on Tuesday. It will be a mess. All I can do is encourage people to vote and do my part. #BidenHarris2020