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Over the summer, I worked for Professor Horowitz in the University of Pennsylvania's Political Science Department. While working there, I had the opportunity to research several topics, including military innovation, terrorist alliances, and several types of weapons systems. The experience taught me about research processes, including the early stages of new projects, as well as projects in their final stages. Moreover, the experience gave me the opportunity to examine my interest in pursuing a career in academia after graduation.

Over the summer, the projects that I worked on varied significantly in what type of research was necessary as well as at what point in the research process the projects had reached. This variety allowed me to become more experienced at collecting and refining the data and information necessary for academic projects at several different stages. For example, the project on weapons systems, which I helped with, centered on determining nation's inventories of the specified missile type. Because this project was in its final stages, I was able to contribute and learn how to appropriately clean data to ensure that it was ready to be analyzed. Similarly, the work on military innovation that I completed focused more on the early stages of the project. Thus, the work involved spending more time on finding the most prominent interpretations of what constituted a "military innovation" that could then be used to establish the premise by which to judge further research. Furthermore, the work on militant group alliances and weapons systems involved data

collection and management, whereas the work on military innovation focused more on reading books to establish what definition and examples were used. I found the differences in research topic and style to be incredibly useful as it helped me to become familiar with multiple types of research and what areas I might want to pursue in my own research both as an undergraduate student and, in the future, potentially as a graduate student.

Alongside teaching me about the research process, working for Professor Horowitz also gave me the opportunity to see how academic research is conducted and to determine if that type of work is something that I would like to pursue after graduation. As a junior, I am at the point in my college career where I am establishing what I would like to do after graduation. One of the potential career paths that I would be interested in exploring is academia. This experience allowed me to get some experience with working in an academic environment as well as the opportunity to interact with not just established academics but also graduate students, which allowed me to learn more about what the actual experience of graduate school would be like.

Overall, this experience was incredibly helpful and informative. I was able to become more familiar with the research process and establish whether or not academia is something that I would like to pursue in my future. I would not have been able to take advantage of this opportunity if it had not been for Perry World House. The grant that I was given allowed me to further explore my interests by helping me afford the cost of staying in Philadelphia over the summer. I am incredibly grateful to everyone at Perry World House for their continued dedication to me and my other undergraduate classmates in allowing us to become more engaged in global affairs and to follow all of the opportunities that we might have. Thank you so much!