



Dear SAF delegates, staff, and volunteers,

Firstly I would like to thank you for electing me as your State Affairs Forum (SAF) chair for the 2021-2022 program year. Your support and dedication to this program has inspired me. You have brought such radiant and thoughtful energy to this program and I am delighted to have you in this section. You bring a unique perspective; everyone comes from various backgrounds and has had experiences that shaped them into the person that they are today. Despite our differences, the State Affairs Forum unifies us. I promise to open and guide debate to the best of my abilities. Every delegate has a voice, and it is my duty that you have the chance to be heard.

SAF is a unique section of Youth and Government. Through proposal writing & debate, you incorporate and strengthen your public speaking, writing, persuasive arguments, research and communication skills. You are presented with the opportunity to be a leader in your community, speak passionately about current issues, and to become educated about others. It is imperative that we use our voice to advocate for ourselves and others. Through SAF we are given the opportunity to learn how to do so in an impactful manner. Remember to research, rehearse, and relax. Research points that will empower your arguments, rehearse your speeches, and take a deep breath.

Last year we debated virtually, in an entirely different setting that was unusual to us. Even so, the vibrant and vivacious spirit of SAF was not lost. Every delegate debated with their full heart. Through overcoming technical difficulties and adjusting to stretched out days of competition, everyone participated with such commendable enthusiasm. We are fortunate enough to experience the beauty of SAF in-person this year. No more laggy zoom calls. No mute buttons. We get to experience live debate. I urge you all to lavish in the experiences and opportunities SAF and the Youth and Government program has to offer, and to do so with an open mind. When we limit our mentality, we limit ourselves to all the possibilities. You are what makes this program so special. Your unique qualities and contributions to debate is what makes this program what it is today.

These past months have been physically and mentally exhausting for many. Regardless of the numerous changes to the rhythms of your daily life, you have persevered. The current circumstances we are in only reinforce the necessity of self-care. Remember that health is both mental and physical.

Delegates, may you prosper and enjoy the experiences SAF offers. I wish you luck on the path ahead of you.

Sincerely,

Sally Musial
2021-2022 State Affairs Forum Chair