

Sarah Banks

Washington Program

Application Essay and writing sample

When I was deciding what major I wanted to be I knew I wanted to have coursework that would interest me, as well as give me the foundations for a future career that I could be passionate about. Political science has been the perfect choice in major and I am excited for the opportunity to take what I have learned inside the classroom and enhance it with real world experience. Washington DC is the perfect location for an internship because it is the center of government in the United States. As well as being the center of government, it is also the headquarters of many other organizations that I would value the opportunity to be a part of.

I believe having an internship in Washington DC would be an invaluable and life changing experience. My main goal while interning in DC is to gain first hand work experience that I could use as a foundation for my post graduation job search. My other goals include learning about and experiencing the inner workings of the American government and making new connections with professionals and other students. I also hope to experience the exciting culture in Washington DC. As a history minor I am also fascinated by Washington DC for its rich history, and I am excited to be an intern in such an area where many prominent American historical events have occurred.

I have previously been a member of the College Democrats at Penn State Berks and I was the Student Government representative for the club. As a representative I worked in groups to accomplish tasks and represented my club at all meetings. I think

this experience would be valuable to an internship because I know how to work with others in order to accomplish a task. I am also a current member of the Penn State University chapter of Pi Sigma Alpha, the Political Science Honor Society. I work hard to achieve high grades and I am very skilled at time management.

I am a very responsible and trustworthy student. As an intern I will be very diligent in completing my assigned work. I love learning new things and having new experiences. While studying abroad I learned how to calmly handle stressful situations and work. I believe staying calm in stressful or unsure situations is a valuable skill to have when participating in an internship because it will be a new working environment with new people and new processes to learn. I am also very independent and self-reliant. I think these are valuable skills to have while living and working in Washington DC because I will be able to navigate the area as well as take initiative in new projects while interning. In addition to personal qualities, I am skilled at all Google and Word applications. As a history minor who has taken multiple reading intensive classes I am skilled at reading large amounts of information and being able to effectively summarize the main points.

I would be interested in internships in both the public and private sectors. I am most interested in government agencies, with specific interest in intelligence and defense agencies. I would also be very interested in an opportunity to intern with an organization that focuses on women's issues and rights. As a Democrat, an internship revolving around Democratic campaigns or current Democratic politicians would be an invaluable experience. Because of my interest in history, specifically American history, I

would also value an opportunity to intern at an organization that works to preserve and research history.

I hope to be given the opportunity to intern in Washington DC because I believe it would be the perfect location for me to expand my knowledge of the American government as well as provide an amazing backdrop of exciting culture to my experience. I think Washington DC and I are a perfect match and I will thrive in the environment. I believe that I will be a successful intern and I will gain experience, knowledge, and connections that I can take with me and utilize not just in future job searches, but for the rest of my life.

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Political Science 001- News Brief 1

(Writing Sample)

September 26, 2019

The story revolving around the impeachment of President Donald Trump is a fascinating one. The impeachment of a President is a rare process that has only occurred two other times in history. The Trump Administration has divided America and the Impeachment of Donald Trump will no doubt further this divide. When discussing this story, it is important to cite information from the Constitution, the idea of separation of powers, and the contentious feelings between the Republican and Democratic parties. All three of these factors play a major role in the events leading up to, and events during the impeachment inquiry. Through the use of the Constitution, separation of powers, and political parties, this essay will discuss the impeachment inquiry launched against President Donald Trump by Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi.

Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi has launched an impeachment inquiry against President Donald Trump for his actions regarding his call to President Volodymyr Zelensky of the Ukraine. During this call it is alleged that President Trump asked President Zelensky to investigate Democratic candidate Joe Biden's dealings with the Ukraine. Trump also brought up American aid to the Ukraine and had frozen a military aid package to the Ukraine. Thus, Donald Trump was insinuating that the Ukraine would not receive their military aid package unless he was given damaging

information on Joe Biden. Trump allegedly planned to use this information to his advantage in the upcoming Presidential election.

The whistleblower, who has been identified as a CIA Agent working in the White House at the time of the call, released a statement on September 26, 2019. The whistleblower states, "In the course of my duties, I have received information from multiple U.S. government officials that the President of the United States is using the power of his office to solicit interference from a foreign country in the 2020 U.S. election"(Fandos). For a United States President to attempt to illegally interfere with a United States election is a crime and can even be considered treason. In addition to interference to the election, the Trump Administration attempted to cover it up by having the transcript of the phone call classified. According to Article two: Section four of the Constitution, impeachment proceedings are necessary at this time as a result of the Presidents alleged crime.

The US Constitution sets out the rules of the US government as well as the rights we have as US citizens. In Article two: Section four of the Constitution, it states that "The President, Vice-President and all civil officers of the United States shall be removed from office on Impeachment for, and conviction of, treason, bribery, or other high crimes and misdemeanors" (U.S Const). The article of the Constitution discussed above, is addressing the legality of the impeachment inquiry brought against President Donald Trump for his dealing with the Ukraine. The crime the President committed is using his office as President to gain information on a candidate to interfere with the election. There would be no impeachment process if not for the U.S Constitution stating

the reasons for impeachment. According to the article and the statement made by the whistleblower, it is clear that Donald Trump committed a crime at best and possibly treason. The Constitution gave Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi reason and backing to launch the impeachment inquiry.

When thinking about the Constitution, it is at the forefront of our everyday lives as American citizens. The Constitution is not mentioned in the article. This is possibly due to the fact that journalists don't feel the need to mention it, yet, the Constitution is the legal backing to the entire impeachment process.

The separation of powers in the US Government is designed to not make one branch more powerful than the other. Powers are separated between different branches of government to keep them all legally in check. The idea of separation of powers is very important in this situation. Donald Trump, as President of the United States, is part of the executive branch of government. The branch of government that will be conducting the impeachment process in Congress is the legislative branch. In the article, Donald Trump is quoted as saying ““There should be a way of stopping it, maybe legally through the courts” (Fandos). This is in reference to wanting the impeachment process stopped, but brings in the third branch of government which is the judicial branch. It is clear that all branches of government, while they have their own powers as given to them in the Constitution, are still strongly linked to each other. Again, the separation of powers is not stated by journalist Nicholas Fandos, but it is clear the process of separation of powers is at the forefront of this impeachment process.

In the United States we have two main political parties, the Democrats and Republicans. Donald Trump has been polarizing since he started running for President. Once in office he has done nothing but increase tensions and ill feelings between the two parties. Ultimately, it is the Democrats who really support this impeachment inquiry. While many Democrats have already come out in support of the inquiry, the majority of Republicans have stayed with Trump. This impeachment process, no matter what the outcome, will further the rift between the Democrats and Republicans. Political Parties is the main reason Donald Trump wanted information from the Ukraine. Trump wanted the information to use against Joe Biden and improve his chances of reelection and victory for the Republican party. Political parties are discussed by journalists whenever politics are spoken or written about. The idea of parties is at the forefront of American politics, and ultimately the impeachment inquiry itself.

In conclusion, there has been an impeachment inquiry launched against Donald Trump as a result of a whistleblower stating information he knew about a call between Donald Trump and the President of the Ukraine. The purpose of this call was for Donald Trump to ask the President of the Ukraine for possible damaging information about Joe Biden, while at the same time withholding military aid to the Ukraine until he received what he wanted. This is a clear violation of the Constitution and makes Donald Trump morally unfit to be President. The causes of the impeachment inquiry and the inquiry itself are a direct result from principles learned in the Constitution, the idea of separation of powers, and the polarizing effects of political parties.

References

Fandos, Nicholas. "Trump Impeachment Inquiry Updates: The Complaint, The Testimony, The Reaction." The New York Times. 26 Sept. 2019. The New York Times. 26 Sept. 2019<<https://www.nytimes.com/2019/09/26/us/politics/trump-impeachment.html>>.

The Constitution, Article two, Section four.