

After almost a year, what do you consider the most important lessons of BFTF?

- *First and foremost the diplomatic skills I gained there, the ability to make compromises with people whose views differ from mine drastically (the 10-hour bus ride was incredibly good lesson for that actually 😊), also I saw a whole another method of teaching through discussion and interaction, which is not that common in an old-school Estonian education system.*
- *I got to know myself better. Honestly, I realized, that diplomacy/politics isn't the right stuff for me, because it requires a lot of responsibility and whenever big things depend on me, I stress out a lot and can't do anything normally. Also, I realized that I enjoy having a conversation with people from different backgrounds and cultures.*
- *As I already stated, I met such inspiring people. The other fellows are the most important part about BFTF. It's a really valuable gift to have friends – and I do mean friends – in all different countries of Europe as well as in the States. You get a different attitude towards other cultures, other countries because you know a bit more about all these countries, the countries where your friends live. (Last fall we crossed Luxembourg in the middle of the night and everybody was sleeping in the bus. Just a friend of mine and I were awake and I told him all random facts I knew about Luxembourg. He was like "Why do you know all that stuff and why are you able to talk about that at 3am?" :D)*

*(Ah, and just a few days ago I thought about our country presentations at that evening when we met the host families. And I just want to comment that this was a really good idea. It took a really long time (probably too long) but it was a unique chance to learn at least a bit about every country.)*

*Adding to the mentioned above, it is a great motivation to see what the other fellows do and what one can achieve together. And BFTF taught me a lot about what abilities I myself have. Furthermore, we had really interesting classes and debates. So, I also learned a lot about Diplomacy (that was the most interesting subject for me) and other areas. The stay in the host family was amazing and our trips to Chicago, Philadelphia and D.C. as well!! And the few days of community service might have inspired Flore and me for our own project.*

- *From my perspective, the most important thing that I learnt during BFTF is that the world, however different and divided, is still one big organism and to make it work perfectly, a constant dialogue is needed. What I mean is not only the meetings of presidents, prime ministers etc. but a simple, human conversation conducted by ordinary citizens, because neither peace treaties nor agreements can substitute true, sincere reconciliation between nations. I realized that we all are the sides of negotiations and the dialogue is the key to the final success.*