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Over the past 4 years, I have learned that leadership doesn't mean that you are the loudest person in the world. Through my experiences in the leadership program, and at AU, I have learned that I have the ability to be a leader, through application of political theory

One of the ways in which I discovered this was through my political theory classes. Through these classes, I learned to challenge the status quo of society. For instance, I began to question if democracy was infallible as western societies currently believe. After reading, I realized that the majority can have a negative impact on the minority. Furthermore, a commitment to equality can lead to omnipotence of the majority and a disdain for majority opinion. Despite Tocqueville distinctivizing tyranny of the majority as an American phenomenon, the rise in populism can be somewhat attributed to this commitment to equality and the inability to self-govern due to that commitment. Furthermore, the so called culture wars in the west may be attributed to those feeling as if the elites have not heard their concerns about growing income inequality and government overreach into their lives. However, Tocequville's solution to the problem of tyranny of majority involved cultivation of democracy through freedom of discussion and exercising of critical thinking. As a result, I now seek a profession that emphasizes these skills over partisan politics.

In the Summer of 2019, I went on a student foreign policy trip with the American Hellenic Institute which is an organization dedicated to teaching Americans about issues in the Eastern Mediterranean. On the trip, I met with the president of Greece, as well as various ambassadors. This trip was a leadership growth opportunity for me because I developed the ability to empathize with perspectives about issues from across the Atlantic. In the United States,

we often live in an isolated environment without having a perspective on foreign issues, and this trip was an opening to expand my horizons.

All in all, I believe though that my identity has developed through my time in the leadership program and AU. In addition, through my experiences and my critical thinking developments, I realize that I make positive impressions on people, and I never stop thinking. Both of these characteristics will enable me to be in a position to influence people, and in addition, create new solutions to international issues. The most famous thinkers did not influence the world by accepting the status opinion, they always questioned what they heard. And I hope one day that I can influence others when I make new discoveries about politics and government.