The experience of the first war game was very unique and unlike anything I had ever experienced before. While at many times I was confused, I now understand the purpose of the war game and will know what to expect when it comes to the second war game. The war game was a learning experience for me on both intellectual and social levels.

As a member of the healthcare team, I learned the facts about the Indian healthcare system. I was assigned the role of critical infrastructure security, so for my part of the presentation, I researched the state of Indian healthcare. What I learned did not surprise me but still alarmed me: Indian healthcare is underperforming and does not come close to covering the people, especially the poor. There are not enough beds, not enough doctors, not enough education, etc. This made Deep's presentation on the healthcare system from a doctor's perspective particularly interesting to me. While I knew the facts, the images of overcrowded hospitals were far worse than I had expected. It's a wonder to me that, despite the severe lacking of infrastructure and healthcare, India maintains a population of over 1 billion people. Seeing and learning about the state of healthcare has really driven home the differences in standards of living between Indians and Americans. While the rich in India have equal or better access to healthcare as people in the United States, the poor in India have very little, if not absolutely nothing. It is a lesson I learned by observation in the tour of Dharavi and seeing beggars in the streets, and it is reinforced by my learning of healthcare.

In my interactions with my team, I feel like my ability to work with others has improved. I believe my teammates and I worked very well together, despite the challenges of illness, lack of time, and confusion about the war game. During the research portion of the war game, we often met together to plan how we would divide our work. I'm glad that everyone on my team got along well and we had no disputes or arguments.

During the actual war game, I mostly learned about political and policy aspects: how to maximize your own gains while appeasing the needs of others. It was very interesting from a healthcare
perspective, as the issues that healthcare faces are not very related to climate change. The amount of bedspace and doctors is simply too low, regardless of climate change. As a result, the healthcare sector focused on making agreements to help other sectors which would also help with healthcare. For example, we made agreements with the agricultural sector to improve rural road infrastructure, as it would improve the transportation of goods and people. It was also interesting that no sector opposed any arguments that the healthcare sector proposed. Were I to do this again, I would try to push harder for improvements to the healthcare sector, such as more clinics and other infrastructure, knowing the other teams would very likely agree.

I feel that the war game deviated a lot from expectations and could have been more structured. As the team technical leader, it was my assignment to assist the team leader during the group discussion. However, I noticed that the actual role assignments meant very little in the war game. For example, presenters were acting as negotiators, as team leaders, and contributing throughout all aspects of the war game. It promoted the more talkative and aggressive individuals to speak and contribute more, while the more quiet individuals were less involved in the war game. During the group discussion, even though I was the technical leader, I contributed directly to the discussions rather than giving information to the team leader. If I stuck to my role’s written description, the discussion would have changed course by the time I told the team leader all the information needed. Additionally, I believe the war game experience would have been better if the negotiations between individual groups happened after the large group discussion. I feel that my team was not sure what other teams wanted or who we could ally ourselves with since we had no information outside of the presentation.

Despite my criticisms, I believe the war game was still a good experience. I had never participated in debate during high school, so this was my first time preparing, presenting, and defending an argument from others with opposing viewpoints. From the negotiation stage, I learned how to find mutual interests and build off of those to achieve the needs of both parties. From the discussion stage, I
gained experience in taking information from many sources and the process of making agreements and compromises to find a solution which everyone can agree with. While I learned a lot, I cannot say that I envision myself in a career where my job is to participate in discussions and debates like this war game. I realize that I do not enjoy the negotiation process as much as I enjoy research and problem solving. Of all that I learned throughout the war game process, this is the most important, and I'm glad that the war game could help me in determining my interests and my future career interests.