Reflection

My summer working at the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy was filled with memorable and valuable experiences that I will carry with me as I venture on to future courses, internships, and career paths. From frustrating traffic and early train rides to adrenaline filled hours of painstaking work to meet an important deadline, my summer encompassed the triumphs and tribulations of life as a working adult. I am so grateful for the opportunity to have been funded to work at a job I am so passionate about as a steppingstone to learn what I want to do and who I want to be moving forward.

I not only learned the innerworkings of a non-profit office and the ins and outs of environmental policy discussions, but also gained knowledge on my own goals and aspirations. From waking up early to catch a 7:30 train to making calls to the French Consulate to ask a pressing question, I pushed the limits of what I thought I was capable of as I transitioned into my role as an intern at the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy. Each day brought new challenges and information, which I grew to enjoy and thrive on. One of my many responsibilities early on in the summer was to proofread articles written by Dan Esty that were to be published, which initially seemed daunting and pressure-filled; however, as I began undertaking such jobs, I felt such pride in being able to be a part of the center’s phenomenal work that I grew more and more confident in my work and knowledge on environmental issues. Eventually, when I began my greatest proofreading undertaking, the 200-page Environmental Protection Index, I had a wealth of knowledge on the topic at hand as well as the editing expectations, so I was able to embrace the task and exhibit my best work. Even when reading these articles and papers, I was gaining such valuable experience and knowledge, making every task worthwhile and exhilarating.

Another common job for me this summer was researching important names in the environmental arena and finding their relevant contact information in order to invite guests to participate in the center’s upcoming events. This turned out to be one of the most valuable experiences for me because I was able to gain familiarity with the names, titles, and impact of different environmental leaders across the globe and learn more about the work they are all doing in addition to gaining skills on
how to use new searching tools and business specific websites. On my search to find important information for the Environmental Protection Index, I was even asked to call the French Consulate, which proved daunting, yet exciting and successful. Every new tool I learn to use and person I gain familiarity with through this work makes me a more learned and useful worker in the field of environmental law and policy, making this job incredibly beneficial.

My experience this summer prepared me for working life and informed me of the career path I hope to take. This fellowship allowed me to do work I not only learned from but also find fundamentally important and have a deep passion for. Without the Harvard Club of Southern Connecticut funding my summer, I would not have had the opportunity to meet the incredible group of people working at the Yale Center for Environmental Law and Policy or gain invaluable experience in a field I wish to pursue. I am ever so grateful for your funding and I hope you continue this program so that future students can learn as much as I did whilst also enriching the Connecticut community.