High School Foreign Service Association First Guest Speaker Lecture – Sample Questions

Topic: Diplomacy and Work in the U.S. Foreign Service

1. Out of all your experiences as a diplomat, which one would you say changed or affected you the most?

2. How did you manage to adapt to frequently changing countries of residence?

3. Did you forge any long-term connections that lasted beyond the time of your assignment with individuals abroad?

4. What is the main thing that you learned from interacting with foreign government officials?

5. [*if the speaker has experience with working in D.C. or another U.S.-based State Department assignment]* Did you prefer working abroad or in the U.S.? Why?

6. How would you describe the spirit of the Foreign Service as a workplace?

7. How did you first learn about the Foreign Service? What motivated you to consider it as a career choice?

8. While training to become a diplomat, did you encounter any obstacles that made you doubt your decision to join? If so, how did you overcome them?

9. Why is the Foreign Service a good career choice for a student interested in international relations?

10. What kind of individuals do you believe the Foreign Service needs right now?

11. What skills do you think students should nurture to have the opportunity to become a diplomat or a good negotiator in general?