

## Week 9

The final week of this internship has arrived and so did the emotions from having to leave such a wonderful place. My coworkers and boss were all happy that I had a meaningful experience and they too couldn't believe just how fast time flew. This week, I was able to reflect on some of the most important experiences that occurred while I was here.

My final week seemed to pass faster than usual. The hours were ticking by faster and it even looked like people were walking faster than usual. This worried me because I have not experienced all of the attractions and events that I was hoped to visit during my time here. Due to my busy schedule, I kept running out of time, meaning that one day I will be back to visit this amazing city.

Regularly this week, I spent every afternoon trying a new restaurant, visiting different museums and jogging past the beautiful monuments. While on my last jog, I ran all the way to the Capital to find beautiful R&B music playing on its steps. I sat by the Capitol reflecting fountain and began to think about what are the chances that I stumble upon this band's last performance during my last week in the city. The music played on and I stayed listening to the music before I decided to head back home. Washington D.C. is the home for the unexpected and that night I experienced a wonderful unexpected concert in the nation's Capital.

At the office, I said goodbye to my fellow interns and to my boss. They always welcomed me from the start and continued to help me develop until my last day. During a scheduled lunch meeting, I was surprised to find out that in reality, it was a goodbye lunch gathering to celebrate my final days at the internship. We shared and talked about what we loved while in D.C. and about all of the new things that we learned. Later, my boss Emmanuel Caudillo invited us to a baseball game as a final good-bye event. It was great to see the Nationals play one last time before I depart.



My last day, I was surprised by one of my friends from California. He was traveling with his family visiting different universities. He just happened to visit Washington D.C. the same day that I was leaving so we had a few hours to meet and catch up. We had dinner and great conversation about all that we have experienced so far. I always enjoy my conversations with him and he has always been someone that I can fully share and reflect about my life experiences. Throughout our conversation, not even I could believe that I did so much in such little time.

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As my internship ends, I leave this place with more knowledge and new perspectives. My exposure to politics began here leading me to be more confident than ever. I am better prepared to navigate spaces like the professional work place, the realm of politics, and a room to network and make the most of each opportunity as it presents itself. I am thankful for the support that was given to me by the HEP and CAMP Association. Their commitment to create opportunities for farmworkers gives me hope that students who are also working hard will be able to take advantage of such incredible opportunities. Thank you!