

Elvia Valdovinos-Cruz | HEPCAMP DC Intern

Program: *Heritage University*
Placement: *The United Farmworkers of America (UFW)*

Journal Entry – Week 2

Monday-----

On my first day working for the United Farm Workers, I met with Deputy Political Director (Areli Arteaga) to go over the expectations and responsibilities that I am going to have throughout the internship. In this meeting, I also had the opportunity to learn the history of the UFW and the work they are currently doing to support agricultural workers. Later that day, I attended the first training class with Dr. Augustine. During the class, we participated in a hearing simulation in which lobbyists expressed their opinions regarding a proposed bill in hopes to sway the committee’s opinion. After listening to the different arguments of lobbyists, and as chair of committee, it was very difficult to decide on whether to support the bill. Now, after participating in this simulation and hearing so many arguments for and against the bill, I completely understand why most bills do not make it passed the House Judiciary Committee.

Tuesday-----

Tuesday was a fully working day. I spent part of the day researching and transferring the data I found to a document so that my supervisor, Arely Arteaga, could review it later. After I finished researching, I spent some time studying and reviewing information about an event that was happening later that week. Once I had enough knowledge on this event, I contacted several individuals to invite them to this event. Lastly, I spent some time working on assignments for my next training day.

Wednesday-----

Wednesday was mainly a training day. We participated in an exercise in which we were prompt to consider our leadership and values. We also reflected on the different parts of our identity and how those identities respond to different situations. After training concluded, I attended a couple of meeting before ending my workday.

Thursday-----

Thursday was a reading and translating day. I had the opportunity to transfer written letters into a computer system. When transferring these letters, I had the opportunity to use my translating skills to create a Spanish and an English version of the letters. I also spent some time reaching out to individuals to share information about a very important webinar that was going to happen on Friday.

Friday-----

Friday, I attended a webinar and worked on finishing the remainder tasks I was assigned for that week. For the webinar, I took notes on the information that was presented. Lastly, I researched some information for my supervisor and finished transferring and translating the remainder letters.