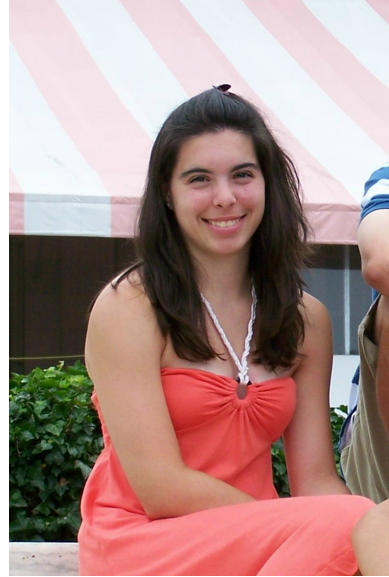


Welcome all to the 2010-2011 Youth and Government Program! My name is Kate Amuso and I am your Editor-in-Chief for this 75th year of our program.

To everyone returning for another amazing year I would like to say welcome back and get pumped. To all new delegates I want you to be just as excited and be ready to leave all your fears at home. This year's conference will be special in that we are celebrating its 75th anniversary. That means we are three quarters of a century strong and this year promises only to be stronger and better than ever. Every one of you, new and returning, should be proud to say that you are taking part in something that is truly life changing. To be here means that you are committed to making a difference. To be here means that you have an opinion.

So don't be afraid to use your voice. Even one seemingly insignificant comment can change another person's entire perspective.



Being part of the press branch has been a very rewarding experience. The whole weekend is a whirlwind of interviews and articles and deadlines. I believe that you truly meet the most diverse group of people when working with the press. This year we hope to expand the role of the press branch, so be prepared to be more informed on the going-ons than ever before. If you have any questions or ideas, especially for our paper *The Dialectic*, please feel free to contact me at k.amuso@yahoo.com.

I can personally vouch for the amazing experiences you are going to have in the next year. From district meetings to the spring conference in Albany, every moment brings new challenges and new friends. In the past three years I have gone from being a bystander to becoming a leader in the program, and I can honestly say that being active is so much fun and rewarding. The skills you will learn in one weekend alone will stay with you for the rest of your life and career, whatever field it may be in. So work hard, be active and most importantly, have fun.

Best wishes,
Kate Amuso
New York State Editor-in-Chief