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Webinar Reflection

I attended the Climate COP Roundtable: Experiences and Insights on Global Action, on January 22, 2025. This webinar included a panel conversation with three Columbia Climate School graduate students who shared their experiences as a negotiator, journalist, and advocate at the COP. The panel consisted of Amy Campbell (UNFCCC Climate Negotiator), Kalain Hosein (Climate Change Consultant at Guardian Media), and Haley Crim (Climate Engagement and Capacity-building Coordinator at NOAA). Prior to the webinar I did not know anything about COP, so I gained a lot of knowledge by listening to their stories. I learned that at COP representatives will speak for climate justice, lobby government members, and negotiate with officials. In order to deal with disagreement with government members and officials, they look for areas of agreement and common ground to use as a start for discussion. I also learned about the role of an observer and that they can hold protests to raise awareness, but they also host art and/or music events to add positivity to the cause. This made me think about possible opportunities for myself or others to get involved. The speakers were inspirational and I wondered how they are able to persevere in this job with the recent setbacks and skepticism from politicians. One particular story that stuck with me was about a nine year old girl who spoke about climate at COP. It was very moving, but participants still continued to argue against climate justice. If the words of this girl did

not have an effect on the skeptics, will anything change their minds? I liked that in addition to sharing their experiences, each participant gave a look into their background/education. It was interesting to hear what they studied and which steps they had to take to lead them to their current occupation. I was impressed by their accomplishments, passion, and their commitment to global action for climate change.