John Rydzeski — New York State Assembly

Where is your internship?
New York State Assembly - Albany, NY

Tell us about your internship?
I have been assigned to Assemblyman Bill Magee of the 121st Assembly District. He is the Chair of the Agriculture Committee, and sits on several other committees including the Higher Education Committee.

How did you find your internship?
It was advertised at school, and through the Political Science Department.

What is your major and did it influence your decision to become an intern?
I am majoring in Political Science with a Minor in Peace and Conflict Studies. Yes, my major definitely played a role in my decision to apply for a government internship.

What are your main responsibilities as an intern?
I complete research, engage in constituent correspondence, hold meetings with advocacy groups, attend committee meetings, and do office work. There is also an academic component of the program with lectures, issue forums, and course work.

What type of experience have you gained so far that you wouldn't have learned in a classroom?
I have gained a technical knowledge of the legislative process including how legislation comes about, and the process through which it becomes a bill, is introduced, and does or does not become law. I also learned about the budget process and working with the executive branch.

What is the most exciting part of your internship?
Probably getting to interact with the people helping to shape policy and laws. It is still a little surreal walking into the assembly chamber!

Do you have any suggestions for students who would like to do something similar?
Even if an internship you get into is not something you’re totally psyched about, still do it! It looks great on a resume, and the networking and connections you will make are priceless!

Do you think your internship will play an important role in your education and career?
I think that once having completed the internship, I will be in a better position entering the job market than someone who does not have that experience.

Do you have any internship advice you would like to pass on to other students?
Do an internship! It gives you experience and is one of the things that differentiates you from other students.