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JFA Reflection
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As I arranged the flight tickets for my group, I had no idea what kind of experience we were getting into - something about a seminar and then being on campus; they kept mentioning mentors and dialogue. We took off cross-country (Hartford, CT to Denver) to learn what Justice for All had to teach us.

The environment at the seminar was eye-opening. We were immediately embraced with warmth and enthusiasm. I was immensely impressed with the quality of the training. I thought I might sneak some homework during the class, but I was captivated by all that was said. I threw myself into understanding the nuances of the arguments and the methods of creating dialogue. The JFA mentors were up to the intellectual challenge, which was incredibly exciting.

Our group carried on the discussion over dinner with the mentors, covering topics that ranged the hot topics of the pro-life movement. We felt fulfilled intellectually and were struck by the generosity and kindness of our hosts.

The next morning we managed to find our way to the CU campus and to the JFA Exhibit. We first observed the mentors at work, noticing the challenges that pro-choice students might give us during conversation. Pretty soon we were roaring to go, starting up conversations with as many students as we could.

Spending the day talking to fellow students about abortion and human life is something we rarely did at Yale. It was so rewarding to engage the hearts and minds of our generation.

When the initial rush of engaging with students wore off, we came to notice the compassion and love that the JFA staff brought to their conversations. Their emphasis on this aspect in the training kept us focused on emulating them. One of the conversations that will always stick with me is with a woman, who though she started off angry and declaring herself pro-choice, revealed that she was in fact in a lot of pain from having had two abortions forced on her. It was as if no one had taken the time to listen to her before! The JFA exhibit enabled me to reach out to her in her pain and listen.

As we reflect on the experience, it is not the rigorous intellect of our JFA mentors, but the love that they bring to their message of life that sticks with us. They cared about the person in front of them, about the pain that abortion causes all involved. We were truly blown away by all the JFA staff and how they fill their work with such love. They gained our respect and admiration as mentors in spreading the message of life and love that is the pro-life movement at its best.