The 2019 Summer Global Leadership Seminar brought together 25 students from across the Philadelphia region to learn, debate and discuss crucial topics in world affairs. This year’s program, titled "The Rise of Political Populism", featured student-led debates, a "crisis simulation," lectures from academics and policymakers, and a culminating trip to Washington D.C.

Participants explored the historical roots of populism, examined rhetoric and imagery used by populist leaders and investigated the rise of both left-wing and right-wing populism in countries around the world including recent examples in Venezuela and Italy, among others. Students explored the contexts and cultures of these unique case studies and applied that knowledge to current trends in America and abroad.

The Seminar’s fifth-day field trip to Washington, D.C., offered students the exciting opportunity to meet with the Colombian Ambassador to the United States, Mr. Francisco Santos Calderón, who spoke about the countries history, governance and relationship to populist movements. Students also spoke with journalists affiliated with the Pulitzer Center for Investigative Journalism, and enjoyed a roundtable with scholars from the American Enterprise Institute.

For additional information or questions about this past program, please view program resources and/or contact the Council’s Education department.