**Name of Project: R.O.O.T.S of Sunflower County**

**Date of Interview: December 1, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Sunflower, Ms (Sunflower Freedom Project)**

**Name of Interviewer(s): My’Angelo Johnson**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Beyonce Russell**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Video File (Beyonce Russell)

**[0:10] MJ:** How old are you?

**[0:11] BR:** I’m 15

**[0:14] MJ:** What school do you attend?

**[0:15] BR:** Robert L Merrit Junior High School.

**[0:16] MJ:** What three words best describe your school?

**[0:25] BR:** Pathetic, poverty and unsuccessful.

**[0:27] MJ:** Do you feel respected at you school? Why or Why not?

**[0:31] BR:** I do because everyone that I know, all the the students look up to me as somebody that always does their work and always knows what to do in class and knows how to behave. So, I feel respected.

**[0:50] MJ:** Have you ever received corporal punishment at school?

**[0:52] BR:** No.

**[0:54] MJ:** If you could change one thing about your school what would it be.

**[0:55] BR:** The teachers views on the stu… on students like certain students.

**[1:07] MJ:** Do you feel safe at school?

**[1:08] BR:** Yes.

**[1:15] MJ:** Why?

**[1:17] BR:** Because I know if I don’t mess with anybody then nobody is going to mess with me.

**[1:20] MJ:** How do you feel you are perceived as an African American young woman.

**[1:22] BR:** I think there’s a lot of stereotypes that go along with me being black in the first place, especially in the south. I think that the perception people get from me is like... She’s not well educated in that she doesn’t have all of the resources that any other white girl would have at her age.

**[2:02] MJ:** What give you hope?

**[2:08] BR:** My education, my friend, and my mentors.

**[2:12] MJ:** What do you want the world the know about African American young women in the Delta?

**[2:16] BR:** That we are… That we are not all stereotypes. That we do not all have children at young ages and that we are not drop outs, out of high school.

**[2:34] MJ:** What advice do you have for African American women.

**[2:36] BR:** That when you have a hope or a dream to become something that you should go after it no matter what the obstacles are because you can always triumph over them.

**[2:57] MJ:** Is there anything else that you would like to add?

**[2:59] BR:** (long pause)Umm… That success has no boundaries and that anything that you hope or anything that you aspire to do that you can reach it.

**[3:15] MJ:** Thanks