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

**Date of Interview: November 17, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Indianola, MS**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Nick Warren**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Damien Brown**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Damien Brown Video Recording

**[0:11]** NW: How old are you?

[0:12] DB:14

[0:13] NW: What school do you attend?

[0:13] DB: Ruleville Middle School

[0:15] NW: Please describe your vision for your life 10 years from now.

[0:23] DB: I plan to go to uhm Cleveland high school and graduate from there and go to a college in Texas called Southern Methodist University.

[0:40] NW: Do you see yourself as a leader? Why or why not?

[0:43] DB: Uhm, I kind of see myself as a leader but uhm for most of my life I haven’t been volunteered for major roles.

[1:00] NW: What three words best describe your school?

[1:03] DB: Can you say that again?

[1:04] NW: What three words best describe your school?

[1:06] DB: My school? Uhm, they have uhm. Well. Sports we have a lot of people doing sports. Academics wise we have good students. And dedicated because we have a like a certain spot we want to reach too.

[1:40] NW: If you could change one thing about your school, what would it be?

[1:49] DB: If I could change one thing about my school it would be the success rate that we have on our test that we take.

[1:58] NW: Do you feel respected at your school why or why not?

[2:00] DB: I do feel respected at my school because everyone knows me and they treat me nice. And it’s the respect that I give them.

[2:16] NW: What form of discipline do you receive at your school.

[2:19] DB: Uhm, I’ve never gotten in trouble at my school.

[2:28] NW: What would help you feel more respected at school? What would help you feel more respected?

[2:45] DB: Well, uhm. What would help me feel more respected at my school is if we had like more people paying attention to what others were saying instead of just going off and having their own conversation.

[3:00] NW: Do you feel safe at your school? Why or why not?

[3:03] DB: Some days I do. But like (pause) other days like (pause) depending on what happens.

[3:30] NW: What do you mean about what happens? Can you give me more information?

[3:32] DB: Uhm, I think, I guess if I sort of get in a disagreement with my classmate but that rarely happens.

[3:48] NW: Alright. How do you feel you are perceived as an African American young man.

[3:50] DB: Uhm, I feel that I’m given opportunities but like sometimes I’m overlooked.

[4:04] NW: What do you want the world to know about African American young men in the delta.

[4:17] DB: Uhm, I want them to know that we are highly educational and fit and active and dedicated towards our goals.

[4:28] NW: What advice do you have for African American young men?

[4:32] DB: To keep trying at their goals that they are trying to reach and never try to give up if it’s possible.

[4:46] NW: How do you see young men of color portrayed in the media? How does this relate to your own reality?

[4:50] DB: Well, Uhm. They are portrayed differently in the media than in my reality. Cause sometimes it depends on my reality. Sometimes they are treated as equals and sometimes there’s a disadvantage.

[5:16] NW: What gives you hope?

[5:20] DB: What gives me hope is like support from the teachers and staff at my school and support for my family and friends.

[5:28] NW: Is there anything else you would like add? Comments?

**[5:33] DB: No.**