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

**Date of Interview: August 27, 2016**

**Location of Interview: Itta Beana, MS (Mississippi Valley State University)**

**Name of Interviewer(s): Theon James**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Shaphire Jefferson**

**Name of file used for transcription** (audio and/or video file): Video file (Saphire Jefferson)

[0:09] TJ: How old are you and what high school do you attend?

[0:10] SJ: I’m sixteen and I go to Ruleville High.

[0:15] TJ: I’m going to start off by asking a few questions about you and your placement in your high school. Uhm, How do you feel like the students and things are perceived in your high school. Do you feel like everyone is respected is everyone looked at and taken consideration of?

[0:33] SJ: I don’t feel like everyone is respected in the high school. And I feel like when somebody do try to take a stand for something that their quickly shut down by either the principal or the assistant principal saying that ‘you just need to do this and you’ll be fine’ when that’s really not the case.

[0:48] TJ: So, seeing that you look at these problems of realize these problems what role do you play in your high school? Do you tend to be a significant student at your high school? If so, what do you do or how do you try to integrate positive things in your environment?

[1:06] SJ: So like, I’m kind of like—well I like to try to stand up for anything that I feel like is unfair when I’m around it. Like if a teacher is blaming a classmate for something or their talking down about a classmate. It’s been times where that has happened where I actually took up for my classmate and corrected the teacher. Like I try to correct different behaviors rather it’s on the student side of the spectrum or the teachers.

[1:40] TJ: Do you have any positive hobbies that you integrate within the school to make it a positive atmosphere within your school?

[1:46] SJ: Uhm Hobbies? Well I mean so far I just really, I like to--- no not really.

[2:02] TJ: Well I’m just going to ask you a personal question, poetry I see that that’s a big thing about you. Why do you like poetry so much?

[2:05] SJ: I like poetry because it’s a way that I can—it’s like a combination of my love for words but also we speaking out on my opinion and try to present new ideas to other people. It’s me speaking to people.

[2:25] TJ: What you ever or do you ever see yourself using your poetry to change your community?

[2:30] SJ: Yeah.