**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): Tenaja Dozier**

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

[0:15] TJ: How old are you and what high school do you attend?

[0:18] TD: I’m 16 years old and I currently attend Gentry High School.

[0:20] TJ: Ok do you feel like everyone in your high school is respected? Do you feel like everyone has equal rights at your high school and is every looked at and taken consideration of?

[0:29] TD: No, I do not think that. Everyone does not have freedom of speech. If you say what you feel they think it’s disrespectful and you can’t express your ways like you want to.

[0:47] TJ: Do you think that there’s anything that could be change about Gentry High School? Do you feel like people could be more involved and people could be more respected? And how?

[0:58] TD: Yes, I do. The parents need to get more active at the school. They need to build more on to Gentry. They need to fix the flooding problem, the pest problems, the lack of the kids going to class, the tardiness. They need to fix the bathrooms—the sewers. A lot more things need to be taken care of at Gentry High School.

[1:20] TJ: Ok uhm, Do you ever see anyone get disrespected or mistreated or anything of that nature. When it does happen do you feel like it’s handled appropriately.

[1:36] TD: No, I don’t believe it’s handled appropriately. Some teachers and the principal doesn’t handle things appropriately. They act like they are kids also. The kids they disrespect each other. The teachers disrespect the kids. The kids disrespect the teachers. It’s nothing productive at Gentry High School. But you do have certain people that try to lead the kids in the right way.

[2:05] TJ: So uhm, what do you feel the student body could do to minimize the problems that Gentry face or minimize the way students are being treated in high school, or at Gentry.

[2:23] TD: To answer the first part of your question, I would like the kids—the kids need to go to class more often. Push to go to class to get their free education. For the other part to make the school better, uhm the teachers—it’s about all of us coming together to make a change at our school. And the changes are not being done because no one likes to come together and make a change. Everybody is going against each other.

[2:49] TJ: Student attendance and tardiness is a major problem at Gentry, do you feel like if that was minimize that students would excel academically and uhm can you give me an example of change the way students attend or tardiness.

[3:15] TD: Of course, have more officers around—walking around. Check the restrooms. Because the kids love to sit in the restroom because I don’t know. Uhm, plenty of things need to be changed it’s just all about the education. They’re getting a free education. Why not go to class? Why be late? Why do things when you had to fight for to get?

[3:42] TJ: So is there anything else that you have to say or want to iterate to us about improving you school?

[3:47] TD: No sir I don’t I feel like I’ve said everything I need to say.

[3:52] TJ: Uhm, Well how do you feel you are perceived as a young man—I mean young woman, an African American woman.

[4:05] TD: In the real world, outside of my comfort zone. I think I’m perceived as lazy. I don’t have an education. I’m not trying to be nothing in life. Uhm, plenty of things that stereotypes against me.

[4:29] TJ: So, how do you feel you change that stereotype against you and make them look at the inner you? You know, give them a different outcome on you.

[0:15] TD: I can change that by going to school, education. They can take anything they want from me but my knowledge.

[4:40] TJ: Well thank you Ms. Dozier, thank you for the interview.