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

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

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

**Name of Interviewer(s): Kyle Pernell**

**Name of Interviewee(s): Vindarius Thomas**

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

[0:20] KP: How old are you, Mr. Thomas?

[0:22] VT: I’m 12 years old.

[0:28] KP: What school do you attend?

[0:29] VT: Ruleville Middle School.

[0:31] KP: Please describe your vision for yourself in the next 10 years from now.

[0:32] VT: I want to go to college for four years and get a bachelor’s degree. And get my major in computer science and become a computer engineer.

[0:41] KP: What aspect of your local history is most relevant to you today?

[0:46] VT: It’s changed a lot, obviously. I wouldn’t say it’s bad but it has gotten worst. If I can I would make it better.

[1:02] KP: How would you make it better?

[1:05] VT: Spreading my opinions on people and if they feel like they agree that can help me also like trying to change.

[1:18] KP: Do you see yourself as a leader? If so explain. If not, why not?

[1:25] VT: I do because I do a lot of things that people don’t do normally. I don’t think that a lot of people follow those things that I do but it’s not bad things. Because if they have their own opinions they can stay with that.

[1:47] KP: What are some of things that you do?

[1:42] VT: Uhm, like on a daily basis I read. I don’t read lot at home but at school or here and I don’t think a lot of people read. Instead of reading at home or here they read 24/7.Instead of me just reading here or at school.

[2:16] KP: What 3 words best describe your school?

[2:30] VT: Safe. Honorable. Respectful.

[2:40] KP: If you could change on thing about your school what would it be?

[2:45] VT: Uhm, I would have more physical activities in school and more clubs for us to join.

[3:00] KP: Do you feel respected as school?

[3:02] VT: I do.

[3:03] KP: What forms of discipline have you received at school?

[3:07] VT: Uhm, well everyday in class all of my classmates respect me as I do respect them and also my teachers. We do have a choice for our teachers to not respect them but they still respect you to get you to respect them. If that makes sense.

[3:42] KP: Have you ever had corporal punishment at school?

[3:45] VT: No, I have not.

[3:47] KP: Do you think it’s effective?

[3:49] VT: I do because some kids sometimes they think when they do bad things they just think that there will not be consequences but there are if theirs is corporal punishment. So believe it will make the students better at what they do.

[4:12] KP: If you could offer advice to school leaders, what would it be?

[4:17] VT: Try to like get into more into school and into the education. Get the students to realize that education is important.

[4:40] KP: If you could offer advice to students, what would you tell them?

[4:41] VT: Respect the teacher at all times and do what the teacher says. And uhm just realize that education is what will make you become better in the future.

[5:06] KP: What do you want your teacher and other adults at your school to know about African American young men?

[5:07] VT: Uhm, I want them to know that nobody isn’t special and all but African American they been through a lot. Uhm they been through more than white Americans, I would say myself. Some whites they just don’t understand what we been through in the past and sometimes in the present. They should understand—all should understand. All races should understand what we’ve been through.

[5:53] KP: How do you feel you are viewed as an African American young man?

[5:48] VT: I feel confident. And you know feel that some white americans don’t feel that we do much but I’m gonna make them realize that we do work hard. We do.

[6:13] KP: What advice do you have for other African American young men?

[6:20] VT: If all races, well not all races just the races that are different from yours, if they are being races don’t mind because you are who you are.

[6:40] KP: What gives you hope?

[6:45] VT: My education

[6:50] KP: Is there anything that you would like to add?

[6:54] VT: No sir.