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

Date of interview:

Location of Interview: Indianola, MS

Name of Interviewer(s):

Name of Interviewee(s): Vonkerius Jackson

Name of File: 043.MOV

[0:16] **A:** Do you feel like you could get along with another race? Why or why not?

[0:21] **B:** I think I’d be better off with another race because everybody at my school is so aggressive and so physical and I feel like I’m more of a talkative, passive person and everybody at my school isn’t really passive and they are very aggressive people and so I feel like I’d get along with another race better than mine.

[0:40] **A:** How would you feel if your school was 50% white and 50% black?

[0:48] **B:** I feel like they would be ostracized. Most white people would be ostracized to their own little section and most black people would ostracize themselves to another section of the school because we just have this tension where we think we’re different from one another but we’re not.

[1:08] **A:** Do you think black and white people can get along if they came together at Gentry High School?

[1:11] **B:** I don’t think ghetto black people and white people can get along if they came together at Gentry High School.

[1:18] **A:** Do you feel as if white people and black people could thrive in the same community in the school?

[1:24] **B:** Of course. Anybody can do anything in this American society but will it be hard? Yes. Is it going to be easy? No. you’re just going to have to work out your differences and try to be successful together.

[1:44] **A:** So do you feel like there’s going to be progress or a conflict between the two?

[1:49] **B:** It depends on what you call progress. Progress—

[1:54] **A:** Progress among the race, progress among integration.

[1:56] **B:** Progress among the race? Yes because normalizing one race between another race is progress but progress along the lines of is Gentry going to becoming a passing school? No, because that’s not a problem of race, that’s a problem of bad teachers and students who don’t want to do their work.

[2:18] **A:** When I say 50% white and 50% black, I meant as if white teachers came and taught at Gentry while, of course, black teachers stay so do you feel like a white teacher at Gentry can be very effective in integrating, along with white students?

[2:39] **B:** Again, it’s all about personality and teaching style. Teaching is not a racial boundary.