

A person is shown from the chest up, holding a yellow banner with the words "DON'T SHOOT" in bold black capital letters. The person is wearing a black face mask and a grey jacket. They are standing at night, with a bright light source visible in the background. The overall mood is somber and protest-oriented.

DON'T SHOOT

SUMMER 2020

MANIFESTO



YOUTH DEVELOPMENT
PROGRAM

IBA



A WORD FROM OUR YOUTH DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM DIRECTOR, **PEDRO CRUZ**

I remember being 15 years old, a Villa Victoria resident and a participant of what was then known as IBA's *Cacique Youth Program*. The time I spent in those art workshops and group discussions transformed my life forever. The bonds I made with peers in those summer and school cycles have become some of my richest friendships. I took the passion that was planted inside of me and turned it into a career. I say this because when I look at every single one of you, I see myself many years ago. I see a group of young adults with the potential to change the world around them. I personally witnessed the amazing work and energy you each bring to the table during programming. Be loyal and true to who you are as a person and never forget that your voice can move mountains. You might not see the entire world, but the entire world will see you!

Pedro





CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

Taneyri De Jesus
– Workshop Coordinator



Since a very early age my favorite word was, “why?”. I have spent my life trying to make sense of life and the world around me. My creative writing workshops’ focus was to foster and develop a love of words for each of my young people! Everyone has the power to be a writer. By creating interactive writing exercises and projects, the youth were able to open up about their inner selves and their experiences.

Our summer theme was focused on the current state of our nation in regard to the educational system as well as the racial movements. We created a safe space for our young people to dive a little deeper into who they really are!

Each one of our young people is a constant inspiration for the work that we do here at the Youth Development Program. We owe it all to you!

ART WORKSHOP

Fidelis Teixeira
– Workshop Coordinator



“Every child is an artist. The problem is to remain an artist once they grow up” –Pablo Picasso.

At the Youth Development Program we continuously try to have each youth spread their own creativity the best way they know how. In my art workshop we focus on a topic, and work our way up by scaffolding art skills that lead us to a final showcase. The youth are introduced to different mediums and styles to help them get a better grasp on what their art could be.

This summer our focus was Education, our goal was to create propaganda posters to represent a part of each youth’s school experience. We reached that goal by creating an emotional and creative safe space for every teen.

Our Youth Development Program would be nothing without our young people who continue to inspire us and grow!



THEIR VOICES



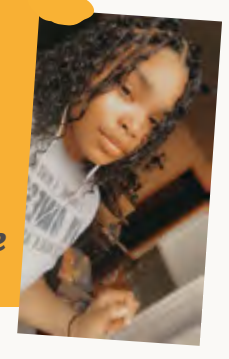
The art workshop was a fun experience even though it was all through zoom. Fidelis our art coordinator made it fun while learning about racial equality and school politics. It was a fun environment to be in and everyone became friends and liked the workshop! – Abdul



The creative writing workshop this summer was such a pure place to be. I think one of my favorite aspects of it had to be the complete creative freedom, as well as the lack of judgement when we didn’t believe our piece was particularly good in our own opinion. We’d be able to write about anything from inanimate objects to our own personal problems and it honestly just felt like a safe space. – Asia



The writing workshop, run by Taneyri is a very exciting workshop. The conversations we get into can get very deep and intense at times. I personally feel that this workshop has changed me and helped me enjoy writing for what it really is! – Saroun



I really enjoyed the art workshop! Talking and Vibing with all the other teens. I love drawing, I’m not so good at arts and craft but taking the art workshop made me think more beyond and be more creative. – Jiselle



The art workshop is a very fun place to be in. I have been allowed to explore my creativity along with learning new techniques and things about art and the world. Being able to express myself and try new things is very fun and has helped me learn a lot. I’ve had to think a lot about myself and my style which is something that I am still figuring out and finding. I am happy that I have spent my time at work doing something that I really enjoy and I am really happy that I got to be a part of it. – Annika



WRITING . . .

CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP

SHOWCASE

Saroun Mom JR

Nameka Despeignes

Basaira De Pina

Asia Monteiro'Finley

Fior Daliza Pena

Niajah Plaza

Inezia Francis Humes

Alexis Hoilett

Isaiah Almonte

Joshua Irizarry

Glerisber Cordero

Sahgine Maisonneuve

Gregory E. Bellegarde

Aidalitzzy Henriquez

Lizbeth Diaz

Richelys Sanchez



Saroun Mom Jr

"Calm her chaos, But
never silence Her storm."
- K. Towne Jr.

Goodbye Privilege
It is me Saroun.

I want you to see every injustice
through my brown unprivileged eyes.
Feel my every pain and sorrow.
I want you to look out your window
and only be able to watch as a young black male;
gets chased down the street by a mob of angry police officers,
for merely looking "suspicious".
Watch as they ruthlessly beat him.
Watch and suffer as you scream with a silent voice
and try to use your privilege that never exists.
Watch knowing your only real weapon is a phone,
a camera and social media.

I want you to know how it feels to be torn down
because you look different.
Get pushed around until you finally snap,
and somehow suddenly become the villain of your own story.

I want you to feel the pain I went through as I found out
someone I loved was just murdered,
at their doorstep.
I want you to feel the pain that their family never got justice,
I never got justice.

I want you to know that to the "important" people,
I do not matter.

For these important people
We are mere slaves.
Meant to pick their cotton and shine their shoes,
And fill their jails.
You may see a blue sky,
But I see a sky painted red with blood memories.

I am used just like a phone,
Use me until I die,
revive me and kill me again.
You kill me just to keep yourself satisfied.

So to that I say,
Goodbye privilege,
And don't come back!
You are a disgrace and brought a misunderstanding
in what it meant to be white or black.

By YOUR definition,
White is good,
White is great,
White is purity and elegance,
White is the opposite of Black.

By YOUR definition,
Black is evil,
Black is fear,
Black is death,
But Black is also Power,
It is the opposite of white!





Nameka Despeignes

"Don't talk, act. Don't say, show. Don't promise, prove."

Good bye, Privilege. It's me, Nameka.

To be black is to be looked at as a person that is bad.
To be black is to be seen as someone who's always mad.
It's sad.

Because in this society, you could be lying on your back, at the hands of the oppressor, who has everything you lack.
Proper health care and housing and everything between.
Where you're seen as a threat, even if a cop shot you in the knees.

For nothing.

You could be screaming, begging please.

With your small child, yelling from the back seat, pleading,
"DON'T KILL MY DADDY PLEASE!"

To be black is to wake up, feeling like you're in a nightmare.
To roll over, hoping and praying that our black men are right there.

But in this world, we're being told that "it's a privilege" to be able to vote. To eat. To breathe.

That we're lucky we're allowed to "live the American Dream."

Who's dream? Cause it's surely not mine.

Or that of a person of color of any kind.

We've been put down, suppressed.

Yet, they want us to accept that they're black culture obsessed.

They call us ghetto and loud, but we're truly just black and proud.

They're the ones who call us violent, but refuse to put the guns down.



Basaira De Pina

"Nothing is real"

Hello, privilege
It's me, Basaira
But looking at the peculiar stringing of letters for my first name
You probably only see,
"foreign"
"Lesser"

We've met in the shittiest of circumstances
I went to reach for your hand
Unaware that in mind you only see the burden of being black
You see how rough they are
Never catching a break
Always having to "make something for myself"
While carrying the pressure of my first generation American brown skin

You hate me
You actively work against me
Letting the shoulders of my history be nothing but a stepping stool for you
And YOUR success
I see you

I see you staring into the ideal blue eyes of that one, those thousands
Those millions of white kids who'll never know what it feels like to be me
With loving eyes and great hopes
Those same tunnel vision eyes that look at me
And see my dad who walked away
My dark knees bruised from begging for approval
My scrawny legs that'll never take me to where you go

These kids can afford to feed their children's children on nothing but entitlement
And have them educated with the same knowledge my people were deprived of for so long
I can barely afford to get a C
I struggle for Bs while you'd think that they're made of honey
Lucky bitches

Every time I open a door
You create another hallway
And these white kids have been outside their whole lives
I'll never get out of this house.
You made it that way,
You built it.





Goodbye privilege, it's me, Asia.

There are so many things I could say to you.
I could ask why you tear me down,
but maybe that's not your point of view.

Is it that my skin's too brown, my lips too full?
Or is it that you enjoy ensuring my people are never truly free.
As I enter the shadow of your laughter.
That you let out as you watch me try,
Again and again and fail.

I need to say,
Goodbye privilege.
But I have to wonder if you'll ever know my name.

Asia Monteiro Finley

"We have a choice, To live or to exist."



He is the king amongst his family.
Brave and curious, ready to fight.
Behind him are his warriors, ready to fight for HIM.

Everyone fights over him.
Everyone wants a piece of him.
But no one wants to be there at his worst.

Custody,
Who shall it go to?
The mother who puts her life first?
Or the grandmother ready to give him up to someone else.

The day they found out about him,
They didn't want him.
Only his Mother.

What mother doesn't want their unborn child?
She wanted him then but not now.

It's crazy how roles change once the action has been made.

With him in the world it's chaotic and hard,
Without him, the world would continue as if he was never there.

Fior Daliza Pena

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you
can use to change the world." - Nelson Mandela*





Shoes
The subject of their jealousy,
Rubber soles pressed against the pavement.
A symbol of status and style,
Prized possession collected by the masses,
expression in its finest form.
Spit on for a misplaced step,
Shot in the back for not giving them up,
Blood on our hands, wiped off on our jeans.
Nimble fingers that tie a quick knot,
And toss those rubber soles
Over the telephone pole.

Niajah Plaza

"Don't be afraid of death; be afraid of an unlived life."
- Natalie Babbitt (Angus Tuck, Tuck Everlasting)



Alexis Hoilett

*"The way I see it, If you want
the rainbow you gotta put up
with the rain."* - Dolly Parton

Goodbye Privilege.
It's me, Alexis
Decades gone, same old message.
Now we have kids locked up behind Fences
I used to say the pledge but now I'm regretting it.

It's like the same thing over, time after time
It's a pattern, the history rhymes
It's hard to open the eyes of those who chose to be
blind
Generations of muffled cries, so there's pressure this
time

Now we plead with officers, but I don't believe in
officers.
How do you ignore that he is not breathing, officer?
Backlash and Gashes for no reason, officer ?

Hating Black people for no reason ?
Someone who's racist every season?
Tell me why I'd form a team of officers ?
KKK and slave mast-
Oops, I mean "officers"

We talk and talk, but will you ever hear ?
If my grandmother was alive today,
she'd question where we've reached after all these
years
Holding your son, and praying for him to shine
bright
My dad was 4 when MLK lost his life.

Hate from the past still kicking and alive
Is white privilege a thing? It's not something to
decide
I see it everyday, doesn't take a keen eye
You're not fighting for people who you've deemed
don't need to survive

Don't speak on matters, if you wont recognize the
truth
Cause if I get pulled over I already know what to do

Be still, don't move
Kiss ass, go blue.
Sir Imma reach in the dash, if that's cool ?

It's not cool, though
We know and you know.
Brand new time, being blacks still a crime,
white people still think it's a lie, but it's true tho
Black women shot while asleep
Black men shot for having dreams





POV: A Door

I notice the way you approach me,
in fear, excitement, or exhaustion.
I wonder what goes through your head
As you place your hand in mine.
If I could speak I'd tell you to run
or I'd tell you to smile.
You never know what's on the other side.
Sometimes you have to face your fears blind.
Even if you don't want to but a blessing can be waiting.
Shake my hand and I'll show you the way.
Just take a step,
Come inside.

Inezia Francis Humes

"Instead of looking at the past, I put myself ahead twenty years and try to look at what I need to do now in order to get there then." - Diana Ross



Goodbye privilege it's me Isaiah
I've noticed when I'm walking down the sidewalk,
you cross the street to give me all the walking room I need.
I've noticed when I'm walking into a store,
you follow me around to make sure I find what I'm looking for.
I've noticed you really want me to visit and be familiar with my roots
and culture,
by telling me to go back to where I came from.
I've noticed when I walk into a building you want me to take off my
hoodie,
so you can see my beautiful brown face.
I've noticed the cops pull us over to ask us how we're doing today,
how nice!
I've noticed the days I don't bring homework,
you hold me accountable.
Even though the night before I fell asleep to gunshots and sirens.

I've said goodbye to privilege,
but when will I be introduced to,
Equality?

Isaiah Almonte

"Don't believe everything you hear. Real eyes, Realize, real lies." - Tupac Shakur





Growing up I never seen her upset,
she was always this joyful individual that everyone loved and
cared about
but that doesn't mean i didn't worry.

Growing up the oldest to ten siblings,
With no parents was not only a challenge, it was difficult!

She knew how to take care of her family,
But she had to make a sacrifice.
A sacrifice she didn't want to make but was forced to give up,
Her education.

She knew this choice would come back to
Haunt her but she would always put her family first.

Even till this day she's still the same.
I don't understand how she's not numb from pain.

I have never seen her cry,
But I can see the dry tears on her cheeks.
When she smiles their imprint shows.
When she laughs, I hear the sorrow.

I don't know if that day will ever come that she will need me,
But when it does I'll be there like she
Was there for me!

Joshua Irizarry

"If you see something that is not right, not fair, not just,
you have a moral obligation to do something about it."



Glerisber Cordero

Born: [REDACTED]
Other Names: gigi
Awards: Most positive person
of 2020, and brightest smile

Early Life

I was born in Boston, along with my 2 other siblings.
When I was younger, my father brought my sister and
I to Disney World where he bought us two stick horses.
My sister broke hers then tried to switch them so I would
have the broken one. I noticed so I chased her around the
glass table we had in our living room. I got very angry so
I smashed the glass table while my sister ran behind the
couch and left me bleeding. My mom came downstairs and
took me to the bathtub to remove all the glass then they
called an ambulance and I got stitches in both my legs.

Family

I live with my mom, my sister , my brother and
my step dad. My father lives in DR.

Influences

My biggest influence is my mom because she's very
independent and shows she doesn't rely on anyone for
anything and that's a quality I kind of have, but I'm
working on doing it better.

Future

I don't really want to be known; but when i'm grown
I want to be able to say i'm happy with what i'm doing.
I want to be successful and be able to give my children
a good life financially.

"Life is all about smiling and being happy!"





My Mother

She carries the persona of strong women.
Who works hard for her family and herself ,
But a persona, doesn't always define a person.

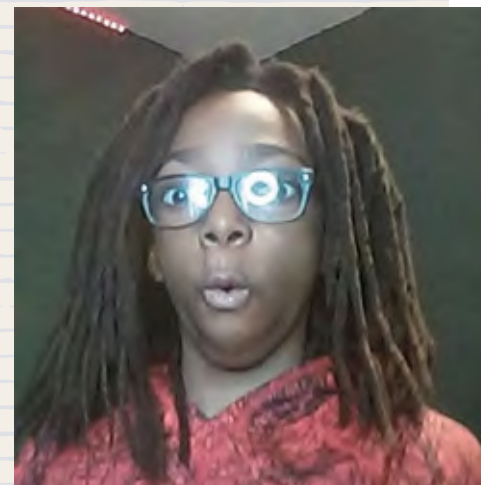
Dive deeper!

She is a woman who is scared.
Maybe of being alone,
so she keeps close the things that cause her pain.
She's been through a lot,
but struggles to vocalize it in the right way.

I feel for her...
but little does she know
That keeping the things that bring her the most pain close,
will not help!
& who knows if she'll ever notice ...

Sahgine Maisonneuve

"When it hurts - observe. Life is trying to teach you something." - Anita Krizzan



Gregory E. Bellegarde

Born: [REDACTED]
Nickname: Grasshopper
Awards: Award for the track
Bold award Corniest jokes award

Early Life

When I was growing up I thought I was a very mischievous boy. One day at school it was 'hat day' but somehow I thought it was underwear day. So when I got to school, I put away my backpack and I went to the bathroom and took everything off and walked out with my undies on.

Family

When I was younger I used to really enjoy the track. My sister didn't really like it as much, she enjoys dance way more than track.

Influences

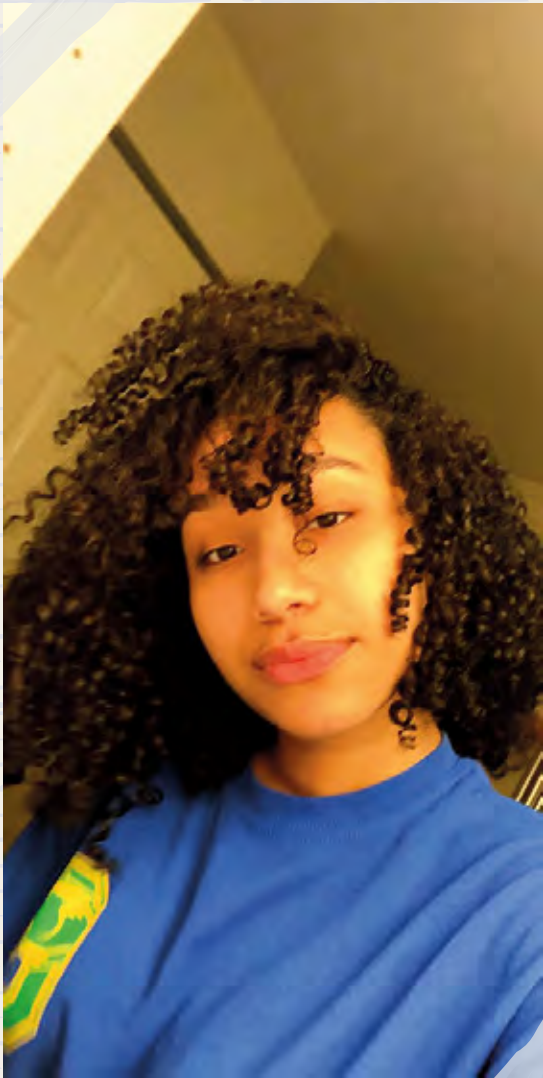
My biggest influence is my mom and dad.
My mom set a track record, and also gave me the motivation to be faster. From my dad, I found more of my creative side where I break down and recreate objects right now my project is breaking down a speaker and retreating the parts from the speaker that can be useful.

Future

In the future I don't want to be known as just a great writer or just a great engineer. I want to spend more time at home then work. Or maybe I won't work what's the big deal of stay at home dads? People always find something wrong with these things that are minimal.

"Be yourself"





Consolation

A few sips and you're hooked
Lingering for help
But you can't let me go

I keep you satisfied
I have the ability take all your problems away
But i'm not a drug
I'm your comfort and safety,
You're escape

"You need to get some help"
Is there something wrong with me?
"You said that would be your last time"
Guess not have you noticed how
They need me
They crave my taste
Don't take me away
I'm in control now

Everyday my existence,
Exposes your selfishness
You've wasted so much on me
Not considering the damage I bring

Money, money, money,
\$10 is all it takes
I have been there since the beginning,
and will stay till the end.
Can't say so much for them
But I will always keep you happy.

Aidalitzy Henriquez

"Life is from the inside out, when you shift on the inside life shifts on the outside."(Kamal Ravikant)



Goodbye privilege, It's me Lizbeth

do I have a right or a privilege
the right to walk down the street?
the right to breathe?
the right to be black?
it's neither a right or privilege
the right YOU get to run and play
the right YOU get to go college for free
the right YOU get to be better than me
you built a system that knew how to fail me.
The sweat and tears my mom has had to work.
While I reach out from thirst,
you gulp the last sip of water.
The duck tape you place so effortlessly on my mouth,
only keeping me silent from your danger.
The lipgloss you put on to cover your abuse.
It hurts,
you always know how to let me down.

Lizbeth Diaz

"Do what you feel in your heart to be right –
for you'll be criticized anyway." - Eleanor Roosevelt





The oldest of 4 only grew up with one,
I wonder why?
I had such a great relationship with one of my brothers but
why not the other?
Did I do something wrong, do they love me?
Being in a household with both of my parents but then all of
a sudden my dad leaves,
Where did he go?
I forgot I have a brother and a sister that don't live with me,
My dad was just visiting them, he will be back soon.
Minutes turned into years and still no dad around.
Just living in a household with my mom and brother, no dad.
Going to bed I only got one goodnight kiss,
everything about my dad disappeared.

Richelys Sanchez

"If you do what you always did, you will get what you always got."



IMAGINATION

ART WORKSHOP

SHOWCASE

Justin W
Hector C
Elijah
Jiselle
Ayisat

Gianni
Jonathan
Annika
Abdul
William





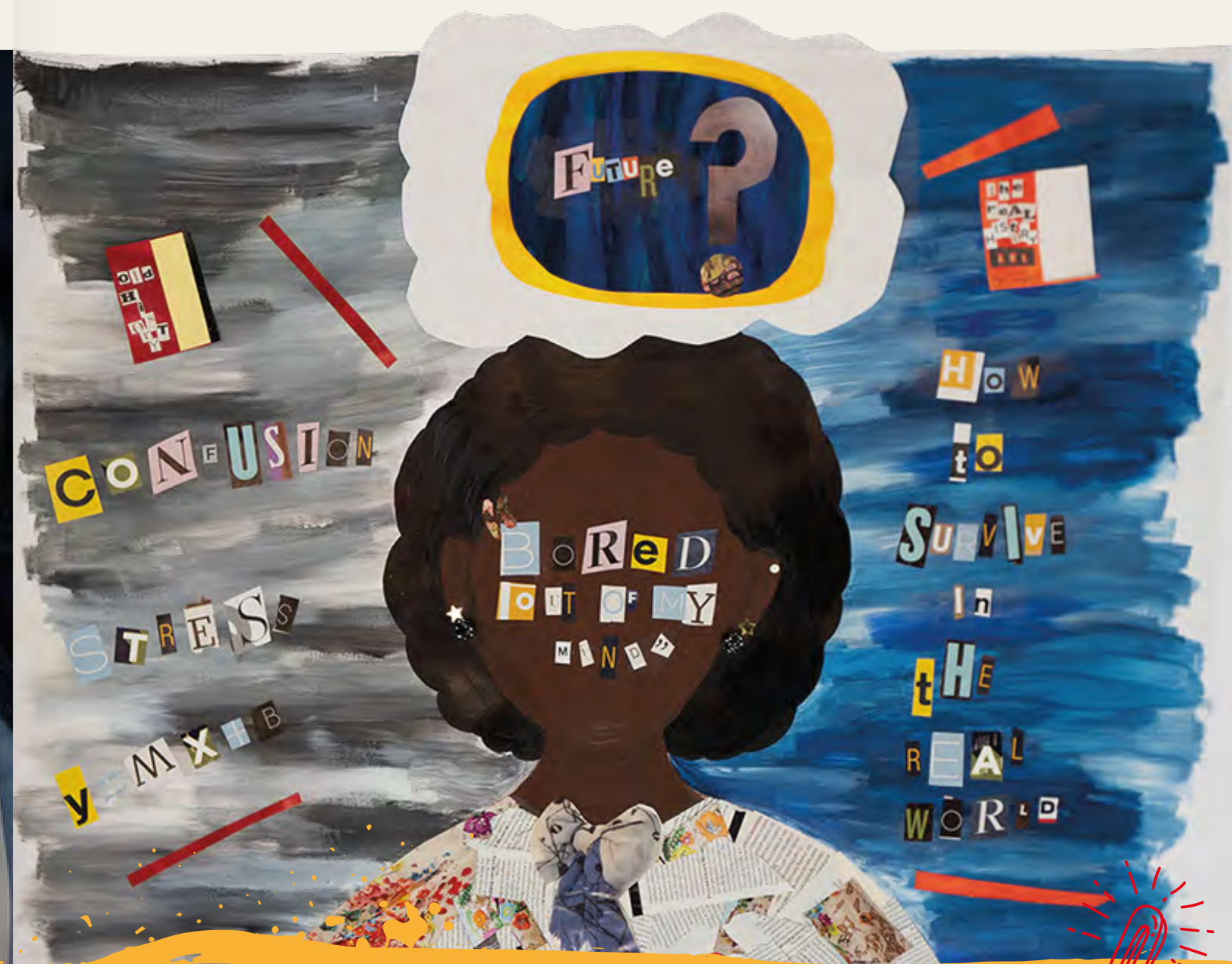
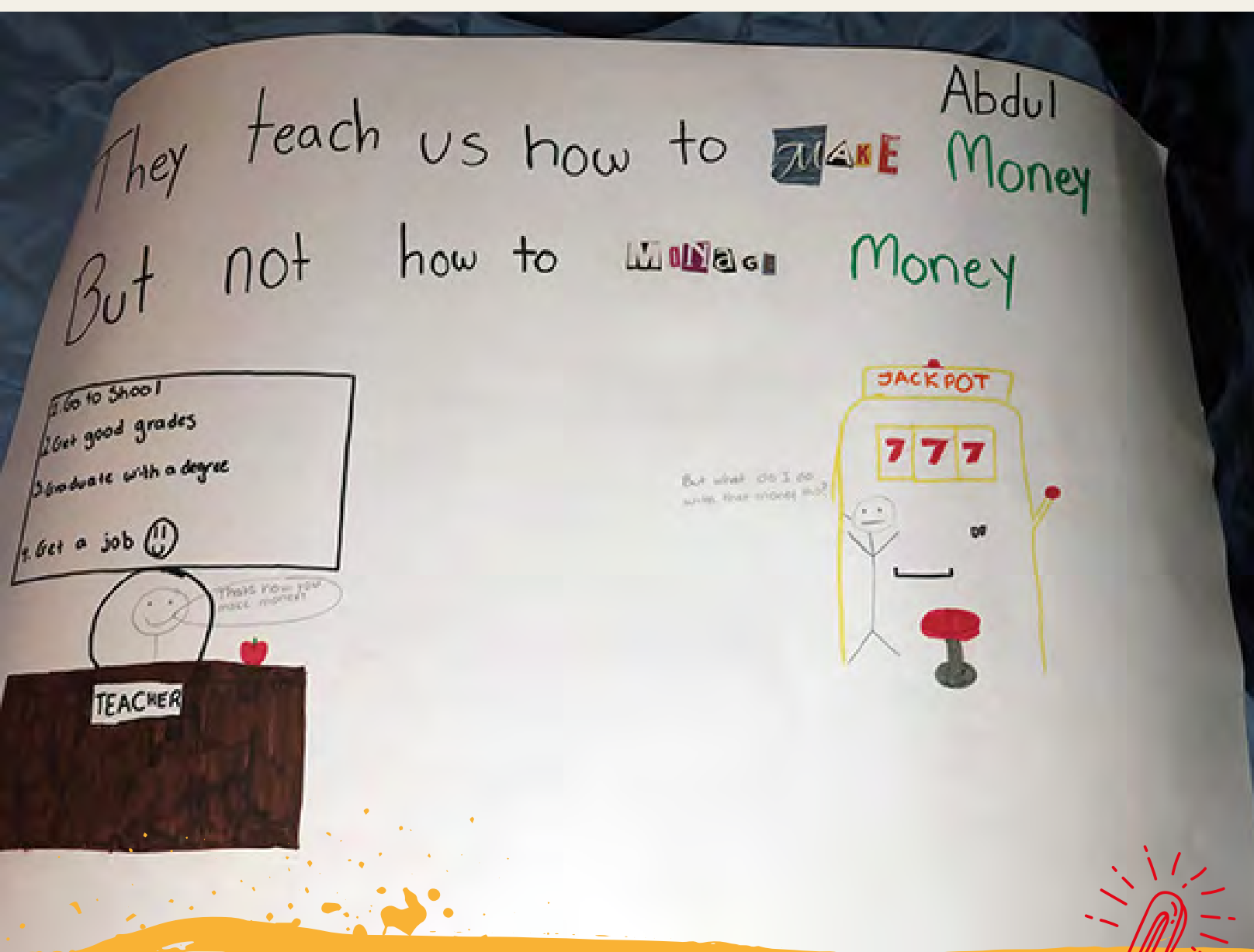
Abdulraheem Kareem

I don't like the style of the education system on how they teach us unnecessary things and not important topics like taxes and financial management.



Annika Swift

My project reflects my inner thoughts and feelings as far as the things I am being taught and what I actually want to learn. I want to learn how to succeed and survive in the real world.





Ayisat Elegbe

My project means that students usually wait until they get home to eat because they don't like the food at their schools. It makes it hard for students to concentrate in class when they are hungry.



Elijah Caldwell

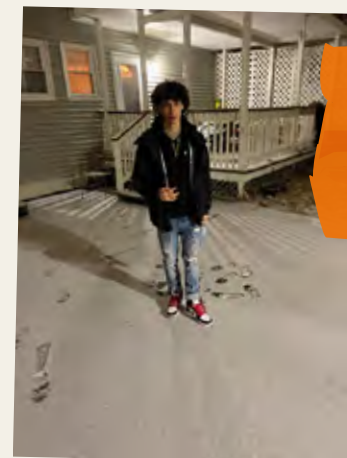
In schools mental health is very much undervalued and overlooked. This poster to me is a little way to tell others to not overlook mental health.





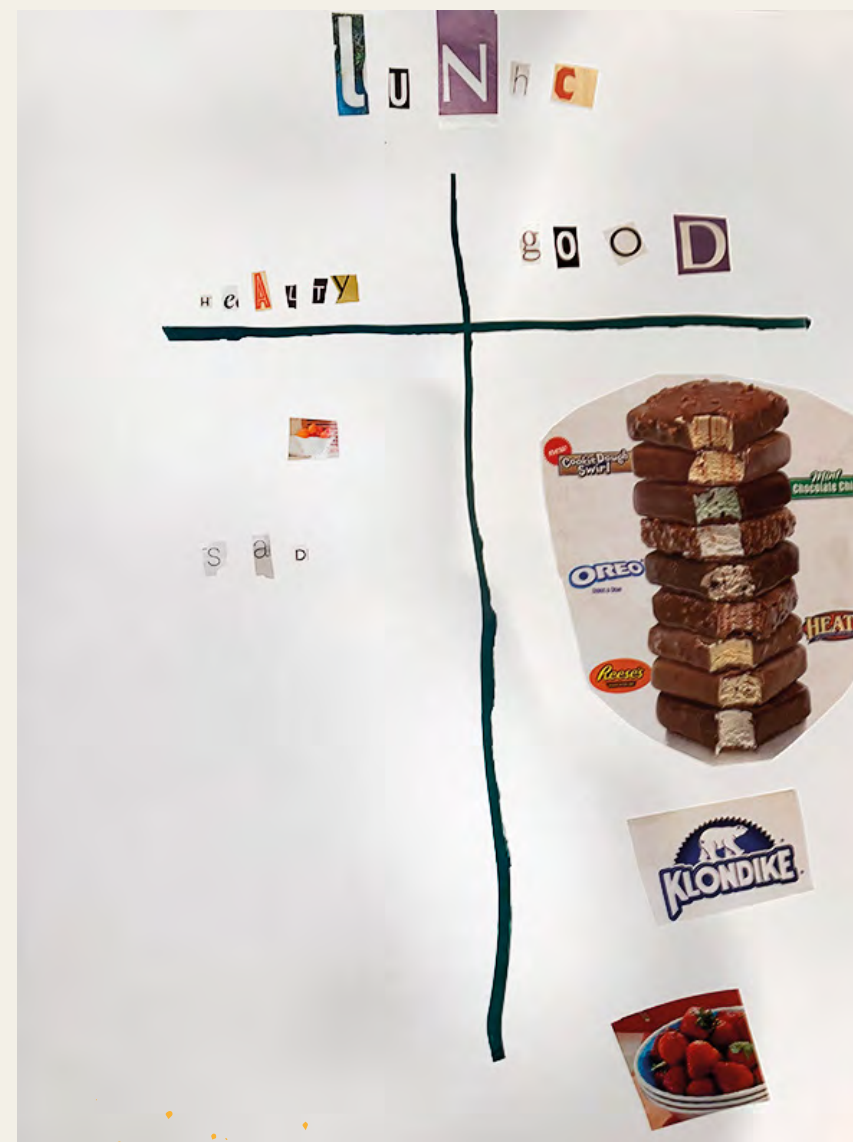
Gianni Hill

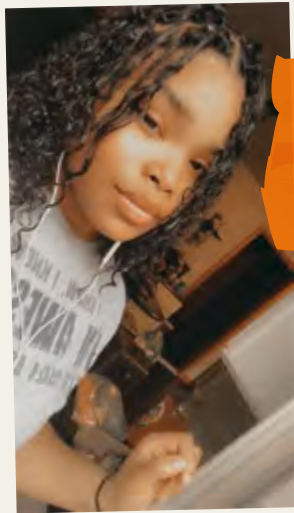
How people of color are supposed to pay attention and be active in school when they are being faced with and witnessing injustices on a daily basis? Everything you see in the poster has a significant meaning to it, and I want to leave it to you to digest and I interpret them.



Hector Colon

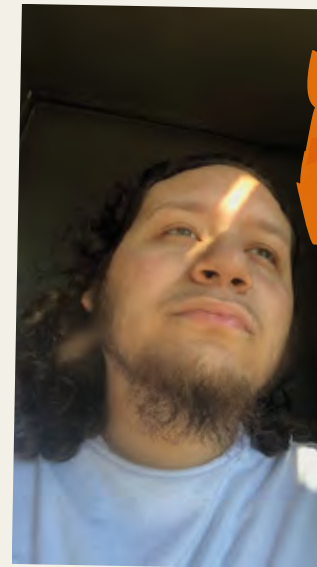
The food we get during lunch at school is not appealing so we would like schools to stop purchasing cheap foods and put more money into our lunch.





Jiselle Greaves

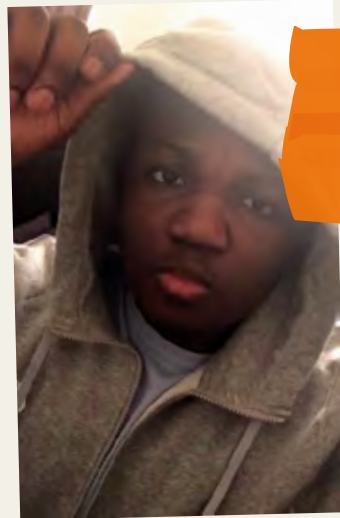
I'm trying to show how a lot of people of color get put in schools that are bad. I wanted to also show how when students of color are put in environments like that they feel like giving up.



Jonathan Nevarez

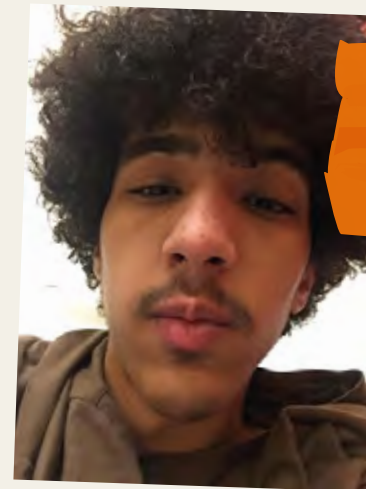
Financial literacy is needed in our schools. Financial freedom and knowledge is needed upon every race!





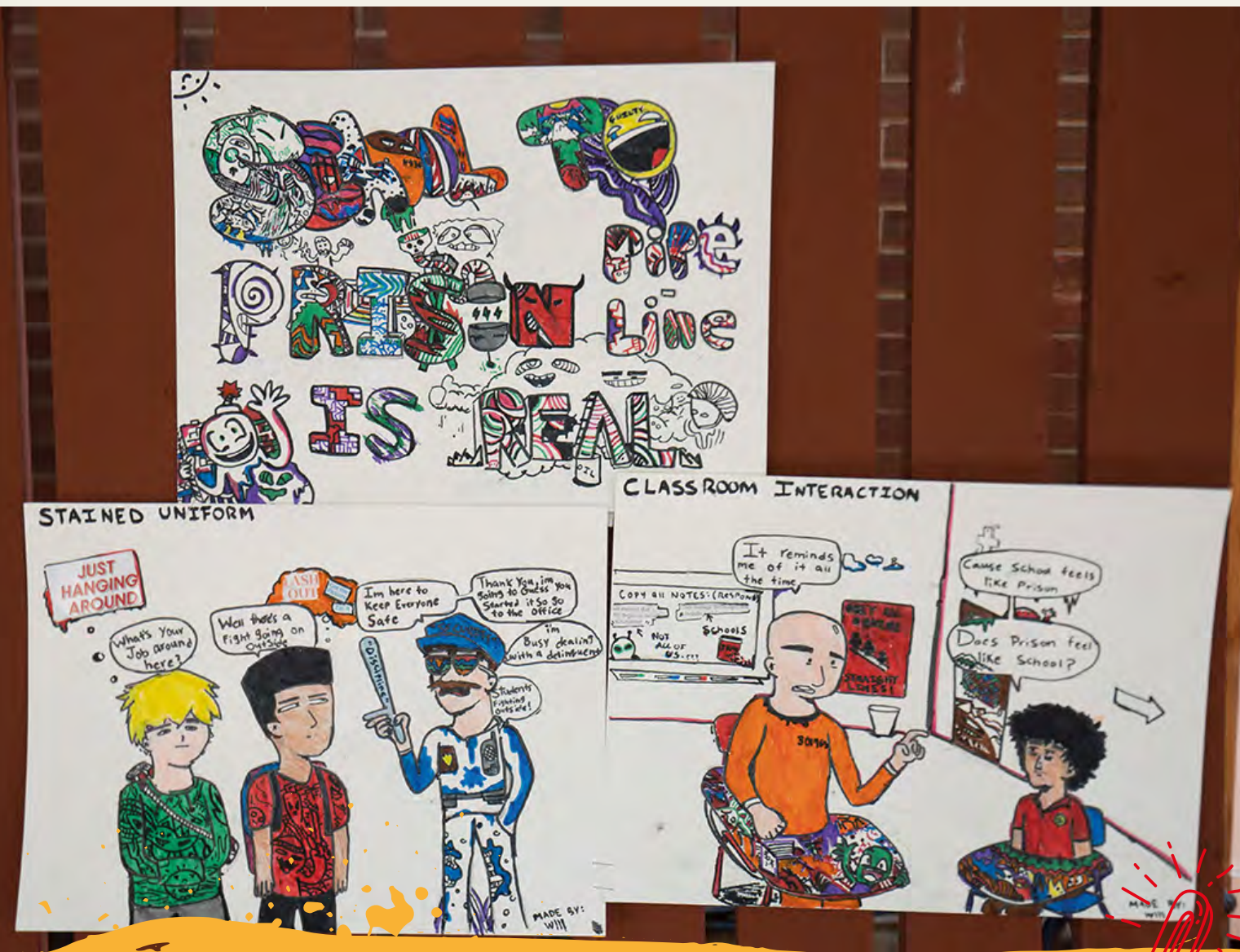
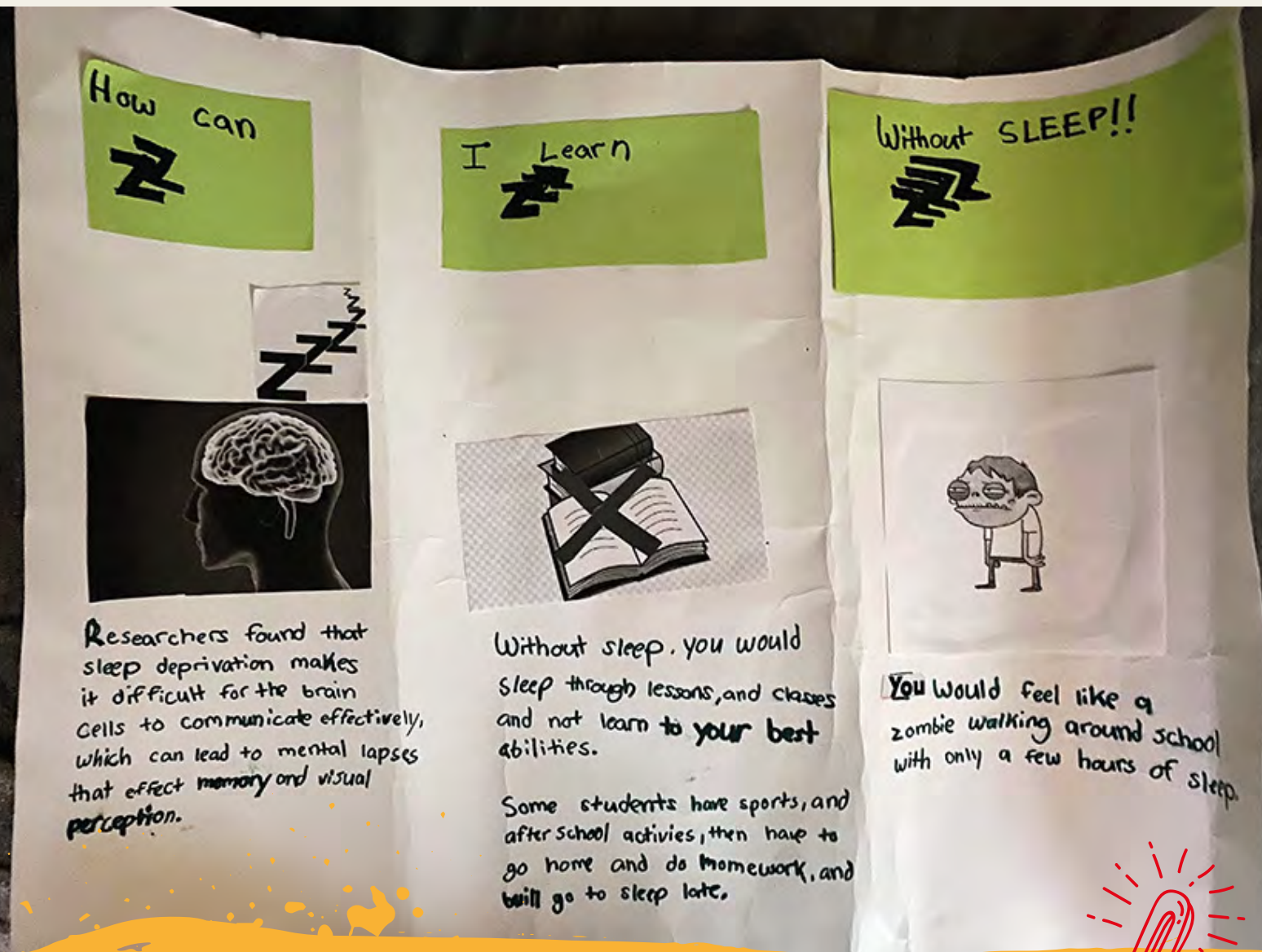
Justin Weeks

Justin W: My project is about how students are expected to wake up early to go to school. Students have other activities and extracurricular activities that happen after school and might not get enough rest when they go home.



William Lopez

My project represents the school to prison pipeline being real by showing two different situations that relate to school and prison.





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