The collaboration with Whitehaven High School has taught something not only to myself, but also hopefully the entire class. Poverty was the main focus throughout the collaboration. Between the facts presented before the defining of poverty and hearing the actual definitions themselves, I learned a lot more about poverty. Hearing others’ opinions about poverty and what they think has opened my mind to the idea of poverty. I now have a better idea of what poverty is since I agreed with all the definitions presented. Most of all, I learned how widespread poverty actually is. I had no idea how prevalent poverty is just in the city of Memphis alone. When we think of how poverty would look magnified to the whole country, it gets a little scary.

While I feel my definition was accurate, the other ones were also superb. I find that the definition given by my group was not as emotional as some of the others’ were. Some of them were very heartfelt and they almost want to make you call somebody immediately to fix this situation. Although the definition given by my group did not include all of my ideas of what poverty is, it still accurately represented what all four of us thought. So it wasn’t too different from what my definition of poverty was.

The “Greater Memphis area” is described as the city of Memphis and its surrounding counties. However, the main area that poverty effects is the city. The actual city is where you will see the effects of what poverty can do a society. This is due to many reasons. A major reason would be the lack of education. Many people are not receiving the necessary skills to go out into the workforce knowing what to do. They are lacking skills essential to reach a position that will get them out of poverty. This might not be due to the people themselves. Some city schools do not have the best reputation for providing an environment capable of producing wonderful scholars. The textbooks might be 10 years old and the school itself might be a terrible condition. These factors do not motivate students to learn. Instead they start engaging in activities during school that will distract themselves and other students. Eventually some students will be influenced to do things that will jeopardize their future, and that will ultimately lead them into poverty.

In terms of our economic system, the eradication of poverty is very beneficial. The more people we have out of poverty and working, the more money consumers will have. Consumers can spend that money on goods boosting the economy. The producer will have more opportunity to hire more workers, therefore bringing even more people out of poverty. This will lead into an ongoing cycle that will contribute to economic growth. The eradication of poverty leads to a cycle that builds an economy so strong that it is almost untouchable.

I feel that the best way to fix the future is to start in the present. To eradicate poverty, we have to build the knowledge in the youth. Lifting this city to a place where poverty is almost invisible requires a community effort. We need the government to put actions into place that will provide the youth with the necessary tools to succeed. We need the people to be receptive of these actions. With both parties in conjunction, we build a future in which the action of one person affects their whole community. Ensuring that students are in class learning is the best way to do this. Knowledge gives you the key to a brighter future and it’s time that people start accepting it.