The Southwind and Whitehaven High School collaboration taught me a lot about poverty in the Greater Memphis area. It is not just happening in far parts of Memphis like north Memphis or South Memphis but also just around the corner from where we live. It showed me that while I go home to a house that has good security and a warm heater other children go home to a house with no light or heat. They are paralyzed by the cold winter and do not have the resources to pay the light bill. I have the privilege to have my mother make me something to eat and always go to sleep on a full stomach but others go to bed hungry. I turned a blind eye before I participated in this collaboration project on poverty as I did not think about poverty as much as I do now. I learned that most children who are born in the projects and surrounded by poverty have very few chances of actually getting out. Due to the circumstances and opportunities it is a probability that they will live their entire lives struggling to just make ends meet.

Each student from Southwind and Whitehaven were paired up randomly to create a working and coherent definition of poverty. Within each group we came up with our collaborative definition and everyone added their own touch to it. We were all different in how we explained our definition of poverty. Some of the groups were very descriptive with how they defined poverty and what it meant to them. Some had a straight forward definition that caught the attention of others. Key words ranged from lack of skills, struggles, hardships, scarcity, etc. Although everyone had different answers we all grasped the same concept of what poverty meant to all of us. It is an everlasting problem with a solution.

As the Greater Memphis area has more and more to poverty it is prone to increases in violence, unemployment, lack of education and disturbing standards of living. Poverty goes hand in hand with violence when speaking in terms of both. Poverty brings a lot of frustration and need to fulfill the basic requirements to survive. With that being said desperate times call for drastic measures which leads to violence. It is all interconnected as a reaction to each action a person has to take that lives in poverty. In order to move up in life or have a chance at getting out in the world and away from poverty we must have an education and a job. The two big factors that contribute to poverty in Greater Memphis are unemployment and the lack of importance on education. Unemployment affects the person because without it they have no money flow and without money flow they cannot pay any bills. Therefore they only deteriorate to a worse standard of living. In Memphis, the importance they place on education is not where it should be therefore many people do not have the basic skills to fulfill a job. In order to have a job they must have some type of skill to be able to accomplish that task.

Poverty does cause a deterioration of the standard of living in Memphis but if we can find a way to eradicate said poverty the city may once again see economic growth and development in a positive movement. We can grow and be better. Eradicating poverty would mean a reduction in violence or there just would not be any due to the fact there is no more desperation to fulfill our needs to survive. There would be no need to steal, destroy or kill for anything since the basic needs would be fulfill. If poverty was abolished, it would boost the quality of living and we could develop more rapidly to function better. Poverty eradication would make it easier to move forward to the future and make big changes for the better.

In order to eradicate solution we have to get out to the public. I do not mean just to those suffering in poverty but also to those living a rich and full lifestyle. Change happens with all of us and it takes just one to start a chain of change. It would be a good solution to build more community centers to help provide people with the information needed to change their socio-economic status. It could help them by finding a better place to live and a better job. It would motivate them that even though the road ahead is tough that it is not impossible to get out of poverty. Public display of what poverty has done can really change the mindsets of other. It is not just about speaking out against poverty but involving all of us in a movement of change.