Sanniah Mondie Jan 4, 2022 Roosevelt Middle School 8th grade

## What adversity have I seen or experienced?

All my life I've been a victim of prejudice and racial discriminaton. Racism has been an issue worldwide for as long as I remember. I have always been ashamed of who I was racially, and hid it from the world. My own friends would racially insult me, saying things such as, "Stop acting white," or "White washed much?..." "Pick a side". I wouldn't think much about it because of my own insecurities. I firmly believe that because of my confidence boost and getting rid of my insecurities, I was able to find myself regardless of the race discrimination I have faced in the past. And because of that. I was able to stick up for myself whenever subjects like discrimination approached me. "Change does not roll in the wheels of inevitability, but comes through continuous struggle" (MLK, 1968). This gave me motivation to do what is right for me, and it helped me understand that with difficulties comes change. You have to decide whether to change or not. James Brown once said, "Say it loud! I'm black and I'm proud!" (Brown, 1968). This helped me realize that my race does not define who I am, but I should still embrace it because it is who I am. In conclusion, no matter how much of a problem this may be in the world, I still managed to overcome it, to move on from it, so we all should. Just like Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr once said, "We shall overcome" (March 15, 1965) I did overcome the prejudice and discrimination I experienced and I will work hard to support others who are experiencing that. I overcame that obstacle that prevented me from being the best me I could possibly be. My skin shouldn't determine who I should be, because I'm me and if that's not enough I don't know what is.