“Life is hard. Everyone that does everything in life: it’s hard. Some people just got better excuses.” - Xavier
“Some people don’t understand how hard it is, to do everything you’re doing, where you’re at now.” - AJ
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“Life is hard. Everyone that does everything in life: it’s hard. Some people just got better excuses.” - Xavier

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About

The ...but just listen Story

...but just listen's mission is to provide students with a safe space to share their stories with the world. Teaching in Baltimore City Schools opened my eyes to the challenges these kids face daily. These challenges moved me to become their advocate; coming to their defense and aid while and when others criticized and demeaned them regularly. Having an outlet that allows and encourages my students, and students everywhere, to authentically speak for themselves will have far more impact than myself or others attempting to speak for them.
Listen to: Maya, Jakia, & Brandon
Published on March 16, 2018

"It is terrible out here. There's violence everywhere you go. It's just worst in some places than others." - Jakia

"I want to get out of here. My dad's saying he's trying to get me out of Baltimore." - Brandon

"But I just be scared because you never know...they could have a gun and they could say, "come here right now," and you have no other choice but to [go] or your life's just gone." - Maya

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Listen to: AJ
Published on March 4, 2018

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Published on March 4, 2018

“It hurts to know every morning that you might die. That you might not make it to see it. That you might not make it to see the next day.”

I met AJ as a freshman Fall 2013. When I did this recording, he was a senior, about to graduate. I watched him grow up from a goofy freshman to a father. While he didn’t continue in the Interactive Media Production Program, I still kept tabs on him to make sure he was passing his classes. One day during my planning period, he was in the hallway, not in math class. I knew he was going through some stuff and I didn’t want him to get in trouble for being in the hallway. So I asked if he wanted to sit in my classroom to talk. While the conversation lasted about 40 minutes, I think the last few really capture his frustration and anger. I asked him, “What do you want people to know?”

next post: Listen to: Xavier

One Comment

1. **Amanda says:**

March 9, 2018 at 4:45 pm

I really like how you get the students voice and perspective. It is so important to understand them and get to know them as students on a deeper level.

Reply
Listen to: Xavier

Published on March 13, 2018

"Life is hard. Everyone that does everything in life: it's hard. Some people just got better excuses."

I met Xavier Fall 2015 and I immediately knew he was a special kid. When we did this recording, he was no longer in my classes, but I was able to watch him grow into a good man with a bright future. Hear Xavier talk about the struggles he's had to face, what his thoughts are on the youth in Baltimore, and what his plans are for his future.

previous post: Listen to: AJ
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Maya, Jakia, and Brandon are in my Intro to Gaming Class. Hear them talk about a variety of struggles and if they feel safe in school.

previous post: Listen to: Xavier