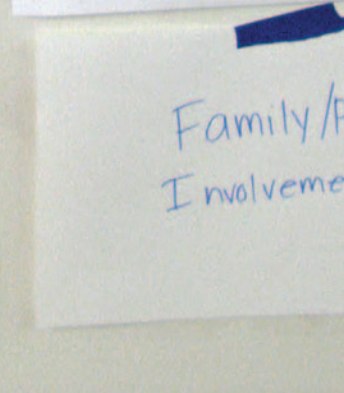
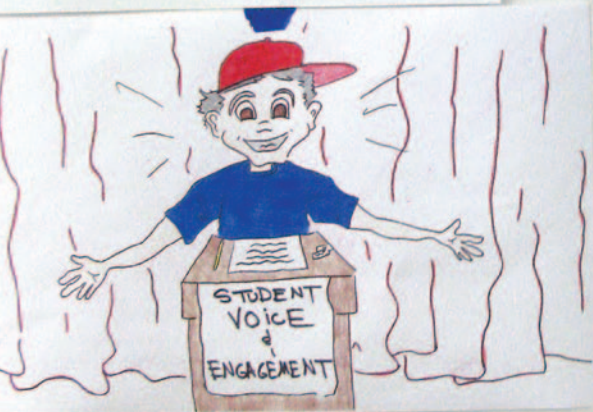
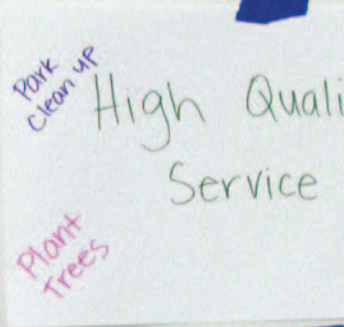
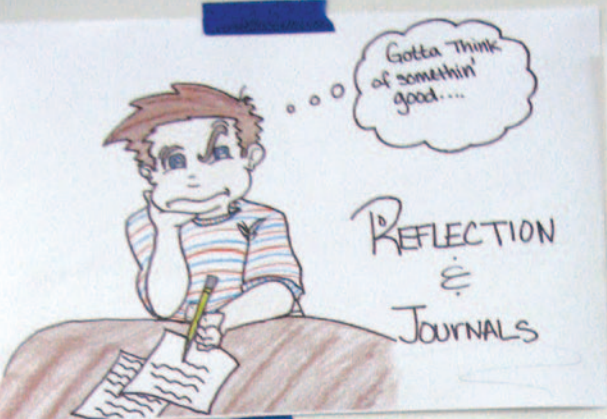




Jamar

Middle School

Jamar loves to play football, and he sees football as a way to think about community:

"Because if they have good sportsmanship, like they would help you up after they just tackled you really hard or say it's alright man, it happens to everybody, like if you throw an interception. But some teams are just rude...If they're caring for you, you think they have a nice caring community. You get hurt in football games and everything, but some people do it intentionally and some do it unintentionally. Some of them apologize, but not really apologize, because people don't really apologize in football, but apologize in their own way, like help you up. You can tell people are more interactive with their kids. But if some people are all mean looking like you did something to them? You can tell by their coaches. Like, if they're yelling at the kids like they did a bad job. Maybe that's why they did a bad job, because you was yelling at them."

He hopes to play for his high school team and eventually for a college team. Jamar lives with his mother and stepfather, and the family dog named Mamaz. He also has an older brother who is 19 and no longer lives at home. His father died when he was 3 years old.

Jamar's emphasis on community became clear when asked whether he thought he would continue to work on the project after Summer of Service was finished:

Jamar: With help, I would ask them what should we go on next, with this class. I would ask, how would it make a difference and what would we do to make it different?

Interviewer: What if you were doing it by yourself?

Jamar: Maybe not....because I don't think that I would personally make too much of a difference, I know I would make a difference, but I wouldn't make too much of a difference. By myself, I wouldn't.

He was happy with the experience he gained from working on the Youth Block Reports projects: "I didn't think that I was going to get along because I didn't know them. I thought everybody was going to keep to themselves and do the work. But it was like a chain reaction of helping and of uh, friendship. There was a lot of helping and friendship and learning." Jamar is 12 years old and describes himself as African American.



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