**Reflection #3**

The public school system that we have in America right now is flawed. Teachers are under-paid, funding for education is lacking in areas that need it the most, and kids struggle to pay for their lunch. Teachers have the power to either inspire kids or break them down. When there isn’t enough money for teachers there is a lack of quality teachers in schools. In my high school personally I didn’t experience many technical problems as I had a good transportation system and I had great resources that I used to help me get more involved in the community. The main problem that I had with my school was that most of the teachers were enthusiastic to be there at times. They would often joke about their pay and continuing a non engaging class. None of them cared enough to teach well in some of the classes and it reflected in the student’s grades. There would always be a huge grade difference between teachers because some of them would not teach well and would grade easy, while the quality teachers would grade properly creating problems in the student body.

I have met others, through the Shelton Leadership Challenge, that have not had enough money to pay for their lunch, had to work a job to help support their family, or would have to deal with violence at school. These people didn’t have parents that could drive them to school if they miss the bus or have time to involve themselves in extracurricular activities or have a household in a safe area. The stark contrast in lifestyle gives more reason to increase funding for these impoverished areas. The government should do what they can to help these kids get out of these areas if they aren’t willing to give more funding to the community as a whole. A kid should never go to a class hungry or go to register for classes thinking about the classes that won’t be available to them.

This issue relates to my philosophy selection as an Epicurean because as an Epicurean pleasure is the moral end. My work that I would do to increase funding for our education system would give me satisfaction/pleasure that I helped to improve the life of a student in these poverty struck areas. I wouldn’t say that I’m a public servant, but I do believe that everyone should be equal in all institutions. It’s something worth working for because at the end reaching that goal means so much more to me.My top strengths is being restorative, which means that I'm adept to changes in my environment. This means that I’m able to create the most out of any situation and optimize the resources that I have through the project. This relates to my issue because in this fight for funding in our education systems activists must battle many politicians to work there projects up the political ladder. It’s hard work and requires a patient individual who can adapt to new politicians or new policies. According to my top strength, I’m that individual that is able to do all that for a program and help them push through any obstacle.

This information is important for my research proposal because I can gain a better understanding of why I’m passionate about my research proposal and what I can do for the program. I can also utilize what I’ve learned about myself and I can apply it towards teaching other students what to do in the face of adversity. These kids in these areas will go through so much in their lives and it’s important to do as much as you can to pass on your knowledge and try to help them become a better person to improve their future. Relation Leadership relates to social responsibility because as a leader you need to be able to empower these students. Around those impoverished areas many kids feel as though they can’t do anything to save their futures. As a leader you need to be able to connect with the students and let them know that they really you do have the power to change their lives and do so much more for their community.