

Meet Chidinma.

Promising Futures Engagement: 2014-2015 peer educator

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Poem 1: Experiencing Identity

<i>I Could Have Become a Peer Educator, Whether or Not I Was an Urban Youth</i>	
<p>In peer educating You have to be pretty impartial You meet a lot of different people Can't really judge Once you see them Once you know something about them Have to respect everybody's background How they do things Their choices</p> <p>That contributed to me being impartial I've met so many different people Learned to not judge based on their life Wouldn't understand Why people think the way they think Wouldn't factor in They have different experiences Different thought processes than me They're different from me</p> <p>I'm not like any other student I am different I am a black student at P.W.I. Just had to say that I was Claim it Make sure it's known and profound Right now at this time</p> <p>It's more like how I see myself How I want others to see me How I feel others would see me A little bit of both</p>	<p>Learned how to manage things Not something I would have found myself doing If I wasn't a peer educator</p> <p>The people in the group They were cool I was friends with them Could talk with them Get to know these people End up becoming more comfortable Time to spend with them Instead of just in the hallway sometime</p> <p>The way the program was set up We connected with other youth Talked to them about issues Helped teach youth about sexual transmitted diseases Stuff like that Important things like that As I continued to do it Turned from a role into an identity</p> <p>A role is like something you play You know, once Then it's over Don't really stick Becoming a peer educator Was a role, at first I find myself having use of it It's an identity now</p> <p>Depends on the moment</p>

<p>I am an urban youth Me being an urban youth is just me being me I could have become a peer educator Whether or not I was an urban youth Being a peer educator Showed me things Taught me things about myself If I wasn't a peer educator I wouldn't have been the person that I am today</p> <p>Being a peer educator Made me more comfortable Speaking to the public Able to express myself better Be more understanding with people Gave me the confidence to take charge. Be more assertive</p>	<p>The peer educator part of me would come out You can be a peer educator in anything I have information I need to bring up If I need to help someone out One of your friends having problems or something Helping them out Giving them advice Peer education right there</p> <p>My sister came home Told me something she learned It was wrong I was a peer educator It implied I had knowledge Ask me questions</p>
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Poem 2: Reclaiming Identity

<i>My Life as an Urban Youth. Can't Really Explain It</i>	
<p>I was born and raised in DC I'm from the city I lived my whole life Being an urban youth</p> <p>To understand what an urban youth is You have to be it You'll never understand Unless you are it You can like Hip Hop Not be an urban youth If you weren't urban You would know that you weren't urban If you are urban Then you know you are You just know</p> <p>To say just urban youth are at risk You think of Black youth That's like a bad connotation Non-urban youth are at risk too</p>	<p>If I want to hang out with friends Get on the metro Go to them real quick Didn't have to plan-plan anything Never had to do all that just to be with other people</p> <p>D.C., we have all these different systems Metro Public aid That non-urban areas wouldn't get People who aren't urban youth Think urban youth are spoiled Privileged in a way Weak in a way Compared to people not from an urban area Being in an urban setting A lot of things are given to me I don't know how to climb a tree We don't climb trees I'm a city girl I can totally see how I'm different</p>

<p>Urban youth is a lot more Unison, I guess More connections to different people Wasn't just people in my neighborhood People in my whole city Compared to people I meet now</p> <p>People I've met from the country Have so much distance between each other Everywhere is like thirty miles away Plan to like drive, buy gas, know how many miles Can create a more distant type relationship with people</p>	<p>I never really had to think about being an urban youth I grew up like that I was an urban youth by birth I'm a city girl I grew up in the city most of my life Accustomed to city thing I was never accustomed to be a peer educator from birth Was something I had to experience on my own As a new thing</p>
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Poem 3: Shifting Identity

<i>I've Changed So Much</i>	
<p>When I first started I was more like quiet Didn't give a lot of input Unless asked for it Now More comfortable giving input Sharing my ideas</p> <p>I usually let things happen Don't have a say in things But Since I've become a peer educator I've been able to be more assertive Speak up Tell people do this, do this, do this</p>	<p>Not feel bad about it Not feel bossy If a person does something My thoughts isn't straight to the negative Know a lot more About what goes behind the person "Okay, she probably has some reason for doing this" Not my place to judge</p> <p>I've changed so much Just recalling those memories Makes me think How far I have gone How far I can go</p>

Poem 4: Being a Change Agent

<i>Change. Something Like That</i>	
<p>iPhone Google Google Chrome Google Maps</p>	<p>All these worldwide uses I want to do something like that I want to change the world</p>