

Damon Gilmore

1. My name is Damon Gilmore. I was born in the Bronx New York, that's where most of my family is from. I stayed in project apartments when I lived in the Bronx, so the neighborhood wasn't as nice as you would think, So growing up I witnessed a lot of violence and problems whether it be with drugs, gun violence, dropping out of school, or infestations. This led me to pursue a major in criminal justice, I figure I could help kids that's street minded stay from getting in trouble or just preventing any kind of harm., I also chose this major because it gave me an insight into what life is actually like vs what people perceive it to be and because this is something i think i could go long term I know it would be good for me. Speaker Julio Medina stood out the most to me because he relates to my dreams and career life. I Grew up in the same environment as he discussed, so I know what it's like to be lost and concerned in the streets. We spoke a little after class and he asked me questions about my life and how I was doing now, he told me to stay because we were from around the same area I was really inspired by the way he explained things about him helping others from their problems and getting them back on their feet
2. The ministry service visit was with Mr. Julio Medina
3. As someone who was born and raised in the Bronx, I believe having a deeper understanding of the environment helps me to better understand people and why some people behave in certain ways.
4. Julio Madina's community service work is put to good needs for those who are scared to reach out for help. His goal is not only to make them feel comfortable and confident during their sessions but also to guide them in becoming more open to sharing their past and current concerns. A further acknowledgment I have is the fact that he hires people

with a history of imprisonment, I feel that he great work ethic for people looking to change their life around and are trying to do great for themselves. The videos shown gave a lot of context of how little bit of information people give when first asked about it, for example, there was one of the women from the videos whose name was Charlene, was beaten and molested at a young age and dreaded saying anything because that's her mother. No matter what she stood behind her mother because she loved her. Later on, she was taken away from her mother because her actions were catching up to her. Charlene didn't open up fully about this situation until she joined Mr.Medinas program which helped her and her daughter have a real relationship instead of facing the trauma as she did as a kid. I believe that his programs are life-changing for many and should continue to become great.