

## I Row Crew

I pulled as hard as I could. My back, arms, and legs screamed and ached with pain. Each stroke was agonizing. The cox yelled “More power!!” The boat picked up speed and quickly sliced through the water, then as everyone was tiring the boat lost its momentum and slowed. After a few minutes the Coxan boomed “way nuff.” The boat suddenly stopped, then I noticed a sight; it was humbling, saddening, and heartbreaking. I looked up and saw a collection of tents with dirty waste all around it. This caused me to feel very somber that any person would have to live life in such poverty and contaminated conditions. I noticed that these people were not as fortunate as I am. I came to realize that their perspective on life is probably much different than mine. I wondered how we could have let this happen to these people. Each time I passed the bridge where these people lived in such scarcity I felt even more compassion. The more I rowed the more grateful I was for all of the opportunities I had in my life. My perspective on people changed. I came to understand that everyone here on this Earth is different. We all come from diverse backgrounds and all believe various things. But one thing that we all have in common is that we are all people that want to be loved and respected.