**Group A**

**Zimani- NYC “We Can Do More”**

**Cristina- Milwaukee “Inside of Me I Hear Music”**

**Andres- Chicago “Words”**

**Josselin- Bay Area “I Am”**

**Preston- LA “I Am”**

**Sebastian- Cleveland “Tree Talk”**

**William-Seattle “Black History Month”**

**Cynthia- LA “Racism”**

**Ayanna- DC “What Happened to the Dream?”**

**Eric – St. Louis “Statistic”**

**Group B**

**Tamia-Cleveland “Listen to Me”**

**Jose- Dallas “I Gotta Go”**

**Stephen- New England “My Friend Bugs”**

**Andres-Portland “Today I Am”**

**Aaron- Denver “Demon Cats”**

**Dallas- Portland “Monsters”**

**Deandre- DC “Love”**

**Tya- Seattle “When I Close My Eyes”**

**Nisrine- Bay Area “She Held Me Tightly”**

**Regina- Denver “The Beautiful Game”**

**Group C**

**Tiana- Chicago “Brainstorm”**

**James- Milwaukee “Glistening Stars”**

**Karina- Dallas “Dallas”**

**Tatiyanna- Atlanta “All Smiles”**

**Sarah- Boston “Dreamland”**

**Sergio-Bay Area “Violence”**

**Jose- Bay Area “A Bright Future”**

**Roy- Atlanta “Entrepreneur”**

**Russet- NYC “Soccer Sounds”**

**Alliciya- St. Louis “The World”**

**A-1**

**We Can Do More**

**Zimani A., NY**

Soccer is my favorite sport

We kick it up and down the court

We keep it so fresh on the microphone

We like no interruptions when the game is on!

I’m not small, I’m very tall

Sometime I fall, so my parents I call!

I like loud claps that make me score

My parents keep saying, “Score some more!”

I go into the game and sometimes I feel shame

But I really don’t blame

Because I take responsibility for who I am!

I go to the goal

I have a lot of soul

I use teamwork

I lead the team

When we come out

We are bravely seen

PS192, they really rock

When they came out they gave me a shock!

They show teamwork on the field

Their goalie is a human shield!

They have good kicks

They make me sick!

They have good passes

They don’t pass gases

They play like Heather

They’re light as a feather

And they ALWAYS play together

Our coaches wonder if we’re a team, and we understand

And we run out there like we’re a band

Our coaches say, “I know we can do it”

Then we say, “There’s nothing to it”

Our coaches wonder if we’re a team

They stop in the hallway and wonder and dream

We ARE a team and we can do more

I’ll tell you why:

Because we’re America SCORES

**A-2**

**Cristina- Milwaukee**

**Inside of Me I Hear Music**

I feel things inside me

But I don’t know how to say it out loud

As how to express myself

It’s like fireworks in me

You can see all those different colors

And each color has a feeling

It also reminds me of the song from Katie Perry

Fireworks

Have you ever wanted to say something but you didn’t

Know how to, or how to tell someone

Or have you ever wanted to say something

But you were too shy

One thing

Don’t be scared

Let out your feelings

It is like telling someone

Can’t you hear my fireworks blowing up in me

Let out your feelings

And don’t let no one back you down

You have that Boom Boom Power

And you know it

Let it all out!

**A-3**

**Andres- Chicago**

**Words**

As sweet as hot chocolate

I will smell you

I will taste you

Words

Soft as a bunny helping me relax like a day at the spa

Words

Hot as lava consuming my body in flames

Words

Light as a piece of paper floating and landing where they choose

Words

Tart like acid slicing through emotions

exposing sadness that’s hidden

Words of praise from my Mom

You are bright as the sun, lighting my way in the dark

Words

You are the most magnificent thing in the world

**A-4**

**Josselin- Bay Area**

**I AM**

I am from the United States. From pop hip hop and echoes. I’m an athletic girl

I am from the words familia and musica from the feeling of happiness.

I am from the promise of family and love,

from “don’t give up’’ and “believe in yourself’’

I am from chicken tamales, rice and beans

mangos, chicharrones, naranjas, kiwis

I am from dazzling shiny water from

Sunny days and ranchos

I’m from the red and white stripes and blue color and stars

I’m from the green, white and red guarded with its eagle

I am Latina Mexican proud.

**A-5**

**Preston- LA**

**I AM**

I am from love.

I am Michael Blackson.

I am a rapper.

I am smooth.

I am Chris Tucker.

I am R Truth.

I am Jackie Robinson.

I am the king.

I am a masterpiece.

My tears cure cancer.

I am Chris Rock.

I am Obama.

I am a comedian.

I am the power.

I am a marine.

I am the man.

because I am black son.

**A-6**

**Tree Talk**

**Sebastian Miranda- Cleveland**

I am a tree.

I am a huge tree.

I am a healthy tree.

I am a strong tree.

I am a helpful tree.

I am a trust worthy tree.

I am an honest tree.

I am a tree that never gives up.

I am a smart tree.

I am a tree that can talk.

I am a tree that can move.

I am a responsible tree.

I am a tree that likes the sun.

I am a tree that likes nature.

I am a tree people pick oranges from.

I will never stop being a tree.

**A-7**

**William- Seattle**

**Black History Month**

February is black history month, we should all know this

Dr. Martin Luther King fought for our rights

And Madam CJ Walker kept our hair neat and tight

Benjamin Banneker worked with a grand clock

Man black history month really rocks!

Michel Jordan had his own shoe; you can buy at the mall

And Jackie Robinson was the first African American to hit a major league baseball

Michelle Obama married Prez number 44

And Gandhi said end all war

Sojourner Truth only spoke the truth

We should believe her, me and you

Mohammed Ali only fought in the ring

He probably bought his wife lots of bling bling

Jesse Own ran lots of track

And Bill Cosby knows how to act

Maya Angelou is a great poet

Oprah Winfrey changes lots of people’s lives

Coretta Scott was Dr King’s wife

**A-8**

**Cynthia-LA**

**RACISM**

EVERYWHERE I GO

I SEE PEOPLE GETTING DISCRIMINATED BY THE OPPOSITE RACE.

SOMETHING THAT OUR FELLOW MAN MARTIN LUTHER KING JR.

WANTED TO CHANGE.

BUT I SEE EVERYBODY AS THE SAME COLOR.

I WISH LIFE WAS LIKE THE SAYING

“TOGETHER WE STAND, DIVIDED WE FALL.”

THE PROBLEM IS THAT PEOPLE NEED TO GET ALONG WITH ONE ANOTHER.

BUT STILL WE HAVE TO ENJOY LIFE

EVEN IF YOU’RE BEING DISCRIMINATED AGAINST.

MY MOM ALWAYS SAYS

THAT GOD DIDN’T MAKE A MISTAKE OF MAKING US THE WAY WE ARE

BECAUSE WE ARE ALL UNIQUE.

**A-9**

**Ayanna Vann-DC**

**What happened to the Dream?**

Martin Luther King, had a dream

To make peace in the world

But now it seems

No one care

Everyone is acting like wild bears,

Dr. King was very kind

And had a brilliant mind

But if Dr. King, were to see

This, terrible tragedy,

He would feel unappreciated

He would see…

People that FIGHT!

In the middle of the NIGHT!

Killing for no reason,

Destroying families for seasons

His words moved swiftly

Like the ocean waves

Listening to his speeches

For Days

He said we should all be free

But today, those thoughts are history

**A-10**

**Eric- St. Louis**

**Statistic**

A young black male,

I was born a statistic

But I’m set out for greatness

So I will be about my business

I won’t settle for less

Because the sky is the limit

As long as I keep God first and school second

Then I know I will win it

 I’m a star even when I don’t shine the brightest

I can be a doctor, lawyer, president, and even a psychiatrist

So when you see me do not judge me because I am rich in the spirit

Combined with determination

That’s all I need to **not** become a statistic.

**B-1**

**Tamia- Cleveland**

**Listen to me**

Listen to me

If you listen to me

You could hear

The wind moving the leaves

Swoosh, swish, swoosh, swish

Listen to me

If you listen to me

You could hear

The birds chirping

Pio, pio , pio, pio

Listen to me

If you listen to me

You could hear

The swings squicking

Squick, squack, squick, squak

Listen to me

You could hear

The cars going by

Broom, broom, broom, broom

The kids giggling

Ha, ha, ha, ha

The babies crying

Wa, wa, wa,

If you listen to me

You could hear

All of these wonderful sounds at the park

So you know

What

LISTEN TO ME!

**B-2**

**Jose- Dallas**

**"I Gotta Go"**

I gotta go, I gotta go

I'll ask the teacher first

I gotta go, I gotta go

I think I'm going to burst

I gotta go, I gotta go

I'd better raise my hand

I gotta go, I gotta go

But maybe I should stand

I gotta go, I gotta go

My hand is raised up high

I gotta, I gotta go

I'm really in a bind

I gotta go, I gotta go

I think I'm going to explode

I gotta go, I gotta go

Uh oh, never mind

**B-3**

**Stephen- Boston**

**My Friend Bugs**

My friend bugs was teased for his name

It made him feel like he was in a frame

He tried to get away

But he couldn’t

Other people told him he shouldn’t

He really wanted to go home

I didn’t want him to be alone

So I sat with him and talked

And other people mocked

But I didn’t care

As long as it was fair

Bugs was my friend

**B-4**

**Andres- Portland**

**Today**

Today I am sleepy

I feel so creepy

I pretend that I am freaky

Yesterday my name was curious

I thought that I was furious

I found a little anger

Tomorrow my name will be "A"

I'll forget all the hay

But I'll remember my raise!

**B-5**

**Aaron- Denver**

**Demon Cats**

Murkiness fogs the room as I’m surrounded by cats.

They grow hidden, immoral wings, and they start to scat.

Their ruffling wings bloom out bulky and bold.

They scratch, they hiss, they start to dance.

They spin and swirl out colors, a line of black, a smudge of blue,

and a splash of red fills the room.

The demon cats hug a breath and inhale the cold.

Soon the sun begins to rise.

Do you believe I saw that?

Believing what you feel, letting your imagination blow.

I promise you, if you did, your personality will start to grow.

**B-6**

**Dallas- Portland**

**Monsters**

In the day,

During the night,

All the creatures come out to bite.

With sharp pointy teeth, and

Large round claws

They’re at the reef,

And out at the malls.

There the Loch Ness Monster, Fred,

And the one that hides under your bed,

There’s the cookie monster

But he’s not that scary –He’s just really hairy!

And he’s blue, but not that mean.

Although if you mention veggies,

He’ll scream!

**B-7**

**Deandre- DC**

**Love**

It’s like an arrow in flight,

When in it, no one is right.

As sweet and succulent as a peach

But oh so rarely can it be reached.

Laid a beauty,

With no Beast.

If she was killed,

The earth would be sealed.

It’s fast asleep

But you can hear it weep.

Feel the winter breeze

Right under your feet.

It makes you fall to your knees,

With great ease

It’s not a beast

Nor a treaty of peace.

It’s as sweet as honey

But not as funny.

It’s good to your tummy

As good as a gummy!

It’s my mom

Who has courage and heart

From this very moment

From the very start!

It’s love, love, love…

**B-8**

**Tya- Seattle**

**When I Close My Eyes**

When I close my eyes, I see you

The person who makes my heart whole

You’re my life, my heart, my soul

You’re the awesomest person I know

You stand by my side

And keep me safe and whole

I hope you know how much I love you so

As time goes by and I grow old

You don’t know how many times I cry

When I open my eyes

And my days are done

I know that we’ll be one

**B-9**

**Nisrine- Bay Area**

**She Held Me Tightly**

My mom held me tightly

She held me tightly like Saturn holding its rings

We were in Morocco on a camel’s back

I was five and the camel smelled like bitter chocolate

But I wasn’t scared because my mom held me tightly

I heard thunder loud as a howling wolf

I saw a flash of lightening

Right outside my bedroom window in San Francisco

I was six and my mom told me

“It will be ok”

My mom spoke louder than thunder

My mom is strong

She climbed a hill steep like a mountain for me

Every week she climbs the streets of the Castro

Raising money to support me

My mom’s love for me is strong

Bismillahihrahmanirahim

She opens the gate to reading the Koran

I memorize lines

Scrambling words until I put them together

She teaches me what she learned in her childhood

Her wisdom and love will live on in me.

**B-10**

**Regina- Denver**

**The Beautiful Game**

I love you more than my soccer cleats

the ones I’ll never give up.

I love you more than the perfect field I use to warm up.

I love you more than the soccer ball

the one that’s perfect for amazing passes.

I love you more than me running along those different types of grasses.

I love you more than the cheering crowds

the stands made out of plaster

I love you more than that kick I have yet to master.

I love you more than my soccer uniform

the one that holds all reason

I love you more than my coach, my soccer team, my season.

I love you more than winning the World Cup

that we have yet to reclaim.

I can’t believe I love you more than the beautiful game.

**C-1**

**Tiana- Chicago**

**Brainstorm**

There’s a storm in my brain

I hear thunder roaring and bursting

Words are falling like little rain drops

Wind is blowing

Words are flying all around me

A tornado of ideas spins destroying everything in its path

Lightning strikes electrifying madness!

It feels like the storm is never going to STOP

Is this a brainstorm?

**C-2**

**James- Milwaukee**

**Glistening Stars**

One day I was trying to count

The stars that shine in the sky.

My dad came out and

INSISTED I go inside,

But I said,

“I am busy counting the glistening stars.”

He said,

“There is NO WAY you can count all the stars.

It will take forever!”

So I counted

 And counted,

 And counted

Until I got to my last star and it shined

Like a diamond that just got cleaned.

So I went back inside,

I ate my dinner and I did my homework

But

I never counted the stars again.

**C-3**

**Karina- Dallas**

**"Dallas"**

Dallas is a palace

A kingdom indeed.

All that we do is tend to succeed

We help people in need

Plus earn the honor to lead

Welcome to Dallas where the Rangers play

If you don't like to lose, it's best you stay away

If you like big buildings, come check out downtown

If you got a minute take a stroll and walk around

I sure so love my town

I love to see amazing things all around

Dallas is the most awesomest Palace

My wonderful Dallas

**C-4**

**Tatiyanna- Atlanta**

**All Smiles**

Smiles all smiles…Keep a smile on your face and never take it off!

When I smile, everybody around me smiles.

I love smiling and I love being kind!

I never make a sad face and neither should you .

Hey, did you take it off??? Shame on you!

Put your smile back on and never take it off!!

Keep it on when you’re home and when you’re alone.

Smile when you’re in the shower.

Smile when you’re sad.

Keep it on keep it on keep it onnnnnnnnnn!!!

I love you and me too. I’m like a princess in a faraway kingdom

Who smiles every day and you should too.

**C5**

**Sarah- Boston**

**My Dreamland**

In my dreamland

 I feel free

I feel like I can do anything I please

Anything that makes me happy

In my dreamland

I know I will succeed in my life

In my dreamland there is no such thing as a bully

In my dreamland

I will get into Latin Academy

In my dreamland I will graduate from Northeastern University

And be a full time artist

My Mom says my dreams can come true

Do you?

**C-6**

**Sergio- Bay Area**

**Violence**

At school while I was writing I heard the drive-by,

It was fast like lightning in the pitch black sky…

Bang! Bang! Bang!

Worried, I continued writing, knowing

violence was still living

It has no color, but it blows like a hurricane

Knocking down trees like divorcing families

It has strength like the rhino stampedes

From “Why did you cut in front of me?” to “We

Should stop slavery.”

From the smallest city to the biggest continent

If violence stands here, then it will spread everywhere

It’s contagious like the flu, a sickness

That’s why fighting doesn’t end problems

It creates them

Join me and we can all stop this violence.

**C-7**

**Jose- Bay Area**

**A Bright Future**

Everyday I see broken glass in the streets
It’s as lame as ghosts that are covered by sheets.
I see a dead rat. I also see a torn hat.
My mom whispers,
“They are as unlucky as a black cat.”
But I don’t really care,
I would even eat them, if I dared.

Someday I will write stories that give a fright
About something that gets into a fight
Maybe werewolves who howl in the night
Werewolves who growl at a full moon
And who turn back very soon.
And they would go roaring to the mall
Run into the walls,
And eat humans who fall.

These are fantastic ideas which are cool
I have to stop talking about this or I’m going to be late for school
Or else I won’t become a writer but a fool.

**C-8**

**Roy- Atlanta**

**Entrepreneur**

When I grow up I will be an entrepreneur.

I will own my own car dealership.

I will sell really fast cars like the dagger;

It will have lots of swagger.

From the convertible top to the shiny chrome rims

From Washington, D.C. to Atlanta, GA.

My great car will take you all the way

Owning your own business is great.

I can’t wait to make my millions

My millions will be like honey and stick to you

Icky sticky money, I want it all and the best

Entrepreneur, yeah that’s me!

**C-9**

***Russett- NYC***

***Soccer Sounds***

When we cross the street

You can hear our stomping feet!

You can hear the crowds cheer

When we make a goal here.

You can hear the noise when a soccer ball is hit.

You can hear coaches *screaming all around*!

There are a lot of noises in soccer called Soccer Sounds.

But when I come back

There are things I hear and see.

I see people throwing trash on the floor

And parks without trees.

I hear kids scream, curse, and fight

When their parents are out of sight.

There are many things I want to change that I hear and see.

These things make me so angry—like THE HULK—I want to destroy everything in my way!

Until I grow up I can’t change the plastic grass where I play…

But there is a power in the words that I say

Because making noise is the first step toward making a change!

And making Soccer Sounds makes me feel OK

Because when we cross the street

You can hear our stomping feet!

You can hear the crowds cheer

When we make a goal here.

You can hear the noise when a soccer ball is hit.

You can hear coaches *screaming all around*!

When I play soccer, I hear Soccer Sounds!

**C-10**

**Aliciya- St. Louis**

**The WORLD**

Do you know what it is?

It’s yours to own

It’s yours to win

The WORLD is great

But it is yours to make

Don’t make it dumb

Make it great

Because the WORLD is yours to take

So don’t treat it like its trash

It has to last for the rest of your life

 The WORLD is YOURS

The WORLD is MINE (2x)

The world is dangerous

But it is amazing

Because there are so many possibilities

And so many ways to succeed

So many things to be in this world

But we treat the world bad

And that makes me mad

What are we going to leave for the next generation?

The next Michael Jordan, Selena Gomez, Chris Brown,

Taylor Swift, Beyonce

You see?

The WORLD is YOURS

The WORLD is MINE

The WORLD

We litter and abuse it

What we gon’ leave for our kids

Dirt! I don’t think so!

We can change the world

So come on!

We gotta show what *we* know

The WORLD is YOURS

The WORLD is MINE (2x)

The world is ours