



UK Dow Jones Workshop 2009

**Profile of Anntonia Jackson**  
**By: Kalandra Gray**

Creative, expressive, a true artist; all these things and more describe Anntonia Imani Jackson. She is a student at Lafayette High School in Lexington, Ky. She is an art editor for her high school magazine, *The Laurel*, which she prides herself on. *Anntonia is very passionate about art.* She truly has a passion and talent for creative writing as well.

“My mind is always running at full speed. There are always tons of stories playing themselves out in my head. My brain is going to overheat one day,” said Anntonia. But Anntonia’s hobbies don’t only consist of composing artwork and creative writing but also web designing and gaming.

Even though Anntonia was forced to come to the Dow Jones workshop by her mother, Keela Jackson, it was like she was destined to be here. She is absolutely an amazing creative writer, and since being at the workshop she has found some new passions and hobbies in the exciting field of journalism. “Taking someone’s picture is the best way for me to keep a memory of that person in a moment where they were willing to let me in,” said Anntonia. She has found an interest for photojournalism while being here at the workshop.

Her outspoken, creative attitude, and free spirit really make her destined for success. Anntonia’s personality makes her an amazing person. Her creativity makes her a very fun and interesting person to be around. Even if Anntonia doesn’t decide to choose a career in journalism, she plans to go to the Savannah Art School.

Taking for Granted  
By: Anntonia Jackson

When we are born we are automatically given certain rights a humans. They were written down for us and made permanent by our forefathers. As Americans, we should be grateful that such things as free speech, freedom of religion, freedom of press and the freedom to assemble peacefully are guaranteed for us. Then why is it that so few do? In the modern generation, it seems as if most overlook these simple yet powerful rights. Is it because we've just become so sure that these rights are going to be here, or is it that, sadly, there is a part of us that just doesn't care anymore? I believe it's more of the former. This generation hasn't had to fight for the rights written in the First Amendment so we tend to take that for granted.

Fifty years ago, if you were African-American it was normal for you to be denied basic human rights. It was normal to be denied being treated like a human. It was normal to be looked down upon, have your opinions fall on deaf ears, unless you slipped and said the wrong thing to the wrong person. As a whole, the African-American people were being told that they did not deserve the rights given to them in the Constitution. Getting sick and tired of this kind of treatment, they fought and fought until they got the recognition they deserved as humans and American citizens. Leaders, like Martin Luther King Jr., were elected to represent the people. They were the types of leaders that were able to make people listen and exercised their right to freedom of speech and the freedom to assemble peacefully. With these non-violent weapons, they confronted those against them.

They fought until their voices were heard like promised in the First Amendment, and it wasn't anywhere remotely near easy. When you live through a situation like that you can't help but have a high appreciation for the First Amendment and other rights that you can now finally say you truly have. There is no taking anything for granted after a struggle like that. A generation or two after that, it is now a different story.

Most teens in this modern time do not think about what they have. Unless they have had a chance to experience an event where they were thrown into a situation similar to what had happened to those that came before them or take the time to study and educate themselves on what it was like before you could really say that you have freedom of speech, they admit that they take these rights, their rights, for granted.

A survey in 2004 of 100,000 students in 544 schools was done by John S. and James L. Knight Foundation High School Initiative to see how students viewed the First Amendment in a post 9/11 world. The survey was distributed to schools randomly across the nation; it included schools of various sizes and both public and private schools. 73% of students said that they didn't have an opinion on the First Amendment or that they took it for granted. 83% thought that people should be allowed to express unpopular opinions. The fact that result wasn't 100% is shocking. 17% of those students believe that if you aren't part of the majority you should be silent. Freedom of speech is meant to protect those who have the unpopular opinion. If everybody had the same opinion we wouldn't need the First Amendment.

I don't know if those students were not informed of the details of the First Amendment, but it appears to be that way. The fact that over half of them didn't even have a solid opinion was so surprising. I feel that if this generation had to go through the

trials of keeping our rights we would appreciate them so much more. Until then, this is a generation that takes them for granted. It will only get worse as time goes on.