“Today across the world—whether you’re a teenager or an adult, no matter your gender, race, or economic status—we are all very well connected. We’re connected to each other in the United States, we’re connected to Europe, to Africa, to Latin America, and elsewhere.”

Right now, sitting in your classroom, do you feel connected to other parts of the world?

“We realize that there’s an opportunity to raise awareness with our photography. We are able to show the world what’s happening, we’re able to tell politicians what’s happening, and we’re able to hold people responsible through our photography. We’re able to go to places far away like Ethiopia and show the world what’s happening.”

Have you ever considered the power of a photograph?

“Maybe nobody knows what’s happening until the photographer arrives and is able to tell that story. There are so many uses for photography, for photojournalism, all with the idea of trying to make the world a better place.”

Do you ever think of how many untold stories there are in the world?

“The purpose of photojournalism is to raise awareness, to communicate, to be part of the process of helping people understand what they need to know to bring about change.”

Has a photograph ever inspired you to become an activist on an issue that’s important to you?

“We are all very well connected. What happens in your life could be happening to someone else. What you do in your life can affect people far away. So, the more we all understand each other—understand what works, what doesn’t work, and what makes people’s lives better—the more we will make the world a better place. When we understand each other and are able to help each other, things can only get better.”

Have you ever seen your story, or a similar experience, in a photograph of another person?