“We have this one teacher—-I’m not gonna say his name. We do like a worksheet and then the rest of the class we just have free time. It’s organic chemistry. People say that class in college is like a weed-out course that’s really hard. So taking it now would help. But we don’t really do a lot. And I know some students really want to do something in chemistry. And they wanna learn more about it. And I think we’re not—‘cause we’re just, like, doing a worksheet and then we’re done. And it’s an honors course too. When teachers are easy like that, sometimes it makes you feel like they’re not really passionate about it.”
“We were going to be taking the same exact AP test as the students we met from the other school. We needed to know the same exact things. But, while they were starting to read the Odyssey, we were reading the Hunger Games. There’s nothing wrong with the Hunger Games. I love the Hunger Games---I read it when I was 12. It just really struck me as unfair.”
When I came to this school, I thought it was gonna be easy—Because I’d gotten used to things at my old school. Over there, all we ever did was like copy from the book. But here, I actually listen to what they’re saying, they’re actually teaching and they get it in your head.
“My teacher right now, she’s hard but she does it for our own good. Because when we go to college, it is gonna be hard. Like Shakespeare—that was really hard for me. When I came over here I was like, ‘man, what am I reading? I can’t understand anything!’ I was like, ‘how could they talk like that?! Did they really understand each other?!’ But then she taught me how to understand it. And it felt good cuz I actually learned Shakespeare—it’s weird but I’m getting it.”
“I like it when we get to work together. I think it just helps us to you know learn how to work in a group. Cuz sometimes—like we do debates in English class or history class. And I think it’s really important because, like, you might not agree with what the other person is saying but you still have to consider it. You have to still respect it, or whatever.”
"In the ‘regular’ classes, the teacher would go over some content and then you’d watch a movie about it. And then you’d do like a worksheet assignment, go over it and then move on. So it was just kind of-- it’s just trying to get you the grade. They just want you to get the grade and get it out of the way....for the next kids to come in."
“You get to have, like, intellectual conversations here. The teachers are real good here—they teach you but, like, they don’t make it boring—they make you want to learn, you look forward to school. Like, the projects we do and, like, how they teach. They work you hard—but we don’t really care cuz we’re getting something good out of it---it’s getting us ready.”