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Romania Reflection Essay

Back in Mexico we have a very similar organization to the one that we worked with. We go and build wooden houses for those in need. It's called TECHO, but I can't say it's that fun, the heat in Mexico is quite tough. Now that midterm came it was time for Romania. All I could think about was TECHO, but in Romania, what a nightmare. Working for ten hours out in the dehydrating sun jealous of those in Venice. Why me? That's all I could think about. Why did I have to miss fabulous Venice and go on a thirteen hour bus ride to Romania. I don't even know where Romania is, yet all I knew is it's not Venice. My mind was blocked at the beginning. All I wanted was vacations just like everyone else. To be honest, I thought that the Romania trip would suck, no doubt about it. Community service? Come on, I've done enough. Selfish. That's all I was. Egoistic and self centered. Even though I didn't really mean to be like this, I was, at least unconsciously.

We might not notice, but this is how we live our everyday lives. We don't really notice or even do it on purpose, but we're out here worrying about school drama and material belongings, while there's actually orphans and families who are worried about finding a shelter or when their next meal will be. I don't mean to offend or make us feel bad, but this is how our society works. I really thought that Romania was going to be horrible. I wanted some time off for myself in the only break the school gives us. To start off, thirteen hours on a bus, great. My mind was like a bullet proof window, nothing went through it to change my mind.

It was until I go there, the building site. I looked at my surroundings and at the people around me. I couldn't believe this is reality for these people, not a game or a joke. These people actually live like this. Here's where my brain clicked. I realized how self centered I was. Imagine, I was dreaming of going to Venice while these people struggle to even have a shelter. From the instance I got my team, my tools, and started hammering, I put my heart into the work. I really tried not to let my lethargy get the best of me, because we were seriously building a home for these people. This was certainly no joke, we couldn't mess up.

All of a sudden we were all working fast and efficiently. It's like we forgot about the “pain of being in Romania” At least I know I did. Every nail I hammered, I hammered with my heart. This might sound like a cheesy sentence to impress my teacher, but it really is the truth. The first day flew by in the blink of an eye. Then came the second day, Alex's house. Alex's story is easily what hit me the most. No parents, raised by his grandparents and barely having the chance to go to school, he is for sure the bravest kid on the face of the Earth. We worked for hours and hours, and suddenly it was Saturday. Our last build day and the day of our departure. It all flew by so fast.

It seems like just yesterday I was that spoiled kid that all he thought about was himself. I'm glad that that spoiled version of me is gone. More importantly, I am glad that the school has this trip for all students at some point, because without it, I would still be that selfish kid that all he dreamed about was going to Venice. Even though it might seem like a boring or tiring trip at first, it really changes the way you see the world and the not so far communities that surround us. At least for me, this really made me realize how lucky we are of simply being born into the families that we have. Without moving a finger, we already have not just a complete family that loves us, but a shelter to live in. This paper might sound like a bunch of made up feelings and catchy sentences, but i'm proud to be able to sincerely say that I enjoyed the Romania trip. Yeah

Venice might be very cool, I could be with all my friends and enjoy some free time, but I wouldn't have had this intimate experience that showed me a new face of the society we live in. There's greater things than just us, we just need a little of these experiences to really make us realize it. After all, its in moments like these where we bring the best of us onto the world.