My name is Kaydeem Francis, and I was born in the United States of America. I migrated to the sweet island of Trinidad and Tobago when I was 3 years of age. Before I left the U.S., I attended a school called P.S. 161. In Trinidad I went to a Primary school by the name of Five Rivers Hindu. I stayed there for 9 years, and then I graduated onto a different level of schooling known to all as High School. In there, I dedicated another 5 years of my life towards my education. When that was completed, I moved back to the United States of America to further my education. My mother thought it would have been a good idea to make me do at least 1 year of High School up here, (in the U.S.) because even though the level of education in the Caribbean is better, not all schools offer a wide range of courses. I actually went on board and decided to go through with this arrangement. Doing my research on the different zones and schools they have, I found a place that would have accepted me called Erasmus Hall High School. Ten months (10) into that school, the guidance counselor called me into the office with news that, they had not received my transcripts from my previous school in Trinidad, and that if I wanted to stay in Erasmus would have had to start all over from the 9th grade. At that time I was already 17 years old, and I was not about to stay there until I was 21. I had a huge decision to make, and I left the school because I heard of another way to graduate which was getting a G.E.D. Diploma. I looked up schools that would have been best for me, and I found a place called Access G.E.D. Downtown Brooklyn. In about 2 months I took the exam, and I received my diploma in the mail on November 9th 2009. Now I currently attend New York City College of Technology majoring in Human Services.

I was influenced by a friend to come into the Human Service Profession. I was unaware of which field of studies that interested me, even though there were a lot to choose from. When I was younger, I always knew that I wanted to become a doctor to help individuals, but I knew to myself that I had a dislike for Science. That aspect of me never changed, and when I was informed of the Human Service Profession, it had fit right into what I envisioned from a child. I have always had a strong urge for helping not sick people, but poor people, blind people, old people, and even the handicapped. This was so because a lot of individuals push aside other populations and pretend that they are not there, and these individuals are left alone to fend for themselves, so I wanted to help change that. This Profession (Human Service) would give me the opportunity to do all that was mentioned above, and so much in terms of learning how to advocate for different populations, learning great leadership skills, engaging in more Outreach programs and getting back individuals to prior level of functioning.

My personal strengths would be that I for one had been through the system. I have spoken to a social worker before, because of problems I had in my life, I have even been through the system, in trying to obtain services for being partly disabled. I believe this can enhance my effectiveness as a human service professional because, I been embarrassed to even speak to a social worker, not to mention having my name in the system, but despite it all it helped me in the long run into being a better person. I thought that seeing a social worker was a waste of time because, they are only put in place to prescribe medication. This was not so, I was actually treated with respect, my opinion mattered, notes were taken each time, and I always had goals that were set for me to ensure that I reached a different level each time we met. It was an experience never to forget, because I always looked at myself as the type of person that did not need help from anyone period. So now that I have been through that experience, I can gladly say I learned a valuable lesson. Even though I know a lot of people who have doubts about seeing a social worker, going through therapy and various counseling’s, I would still urge them to try because it was worth it for me. For my professional strengths, I would say that I always was the person that people come to with their problems, and often I was put into situations where I did not know what to say or do, but I always tried to help in some way or another. I helped out with community groups, youth groups, volunteering in building services to enhance the community, and also did a couple food drives to individuals who were less fortunate. So I believe some of these things could help me in the process of being an effective Human Service Worker. If I was to define myself, I would say that I am someone who is very strong willed, and knows how to get what I want. I am a very respectable person, and I am not one to sit back and let things get the best of me, I always need to be in control at least 98% of the time.

The population I would like to work with would be the Elderly. This population can range of individuals from ages 65 and older. Most of these tender individuals are not able to provide for themselves, and that is why I chose this population. Some of the issues and concerns that worry me are; their families not wanting the responsibilities of taking care of them, the weakening of their senses, medical issues, transportation, financial, and mental disabilities. The skills I would need to be an effective worker would be; Community Counseling Model, Preventative programs, Client advocacy and Political advocacy.

The **Community Counseling Model**, this system would enforce outreach programs that would organize for counselors to be available to help clients in their time of emotional need. I would also use **Preventative programs** to educate them on the risks factors of getting diseases and also the importance of being healthy. **Client advocacy** would be another key part, which would advocate for better transportation, setting up more ramps in public places to access the needs of the elderly; for example wheel chairs, chairs in public places and better assistance in express service while going to seek help away from their homes. Lastly I would use **political advocacy** which would try to get the elderly in this community better benefits, and health care plans.

I envision my career path as being a successful Human Service Worker in the field of gerontology. I say so because, I have a broad knowledge of what is going on, in and around my population. At that point in time (10 years from now) I should have obtained my Master’s Degree, have my own business and excelling in what interests me the most. I expect my future to be promising, and even though there is still a lot to learn about the way the elders live, and what they been through, for example veterans with disabilities, and other fields that I have not gotten to yet or not quite sure about, but I am confident that in the next 10 years I would have acquired the proper information needed to be a better an outstanding worker for years to come.

In concluding I would like to say that, helping others was all I ever thought about from small, now is my opportunity to learn and acquire the skills in doing so. Human services department has been giving me the tools necessary to go out into my field of work, and make a difference in the world. Now, I cannot save everyone at once, but I have learned that each one teach one, and it is a combine effort through services like collaboration, rehabilitation, social care and social control which all have a part to play in of getting individuals back to self-sufficiency. Those key terms are basically what my essay was about, in terms of my population, and more so other populations as well, as part of growth to society.