**I Am From…**

I am Natalie, a leader from Minnesota State University, Mankato.

I am from bookshelves in every room.

From Chlorox bleach and Jergen’s lotion.

I am from Black and White people.

From Saturday morning hair pressing stinging my scalp.

Which makes me thankful that to this day that I keep my hair short.

I am from the Saunders and the Buckleys.

From hot, spicy Jamaican food and cool, swinging New York jazz.

I am from eye-rolling, neck-swiveling, teeth-sucking sarcasm.

Even though I have learned to mostly curb it in public situations.

From “you’re the oldest – be a good example for the others” and “proud of you”.

I am from Ted and Sheila.

From Sunday mornings in frilly dresses, white anklets with black patent leather shoes and all-night revival services.

I am from able-bodied-ness and the kind of skin that doesn’t show my true age.

To strengthen my cultural competency, I must actively listen to more stories and better understand others experiences.

In terms of social justice in my school, I hope to provide a space where it is understood that all people have immeasurable value.