

## Voice Poem #2

### ALL

I'm a stranger.  
A product of the circumstance.  
I would have planned it differently.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

Parent decision.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

No say in the matter.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

I wanted to stay

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

to eat the food that comforts my soul

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

But they saw the opportunity to reunite  
with their identity lost.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

So now I'm stuck with this new language  
that I can't seem to get right.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

I had plans for myself.  
Why couldn't they just leave me there?

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

Wrong place, wrong time.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

On the run without a dime.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

and remain with family and friends,

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

and communicate to no end.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

A chance to escape that sickening violence  
no matter the cost.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

Everyday is a new challenge.  
I wish I had some insight.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

I could have been a doctor,  
but now it's again freshman year.

### ALL

I stick out.  
It's obvious I'm different.  
I wish it wasn't this way.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

I fumble over the words.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

My accent betrays me.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

Don't follow that social cue.

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

What would you do?

### ALL

It wasn't in the plan, but I am here.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

My future lies in this foreign land

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

and it's better than I expected.

#### STUDENT FROM UGANDA

I left with the uncertainty of tomorrow,

#### STUDENT FROM EL SALVADOR

but slowly I'm feeling connected.