**The Prompt**

*Of all the struggles these refugees faced in America, which do you think must have been the most difficult? Consider the alienation caused by culture shock, financial hardship, loneliness, and the new climate. Write one paragraph of at least 7 sentences, that explains your view and cites specific evidence from at least two sources.*

**Sample 1**

The hardest thing that they faced is probably financial hardship. The story “The Lost Boys” says rent is $445 a month. This is hard because they only get 510 dollars of assistance money a month. In one of the video clips it says that people aren’t friendly. This makes it hard for them to get a job. So, they can’t make much money and they don’t have much money to spend.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**

**Sample 2**

Of all the struggles the refugees faced in America, the cultural differences were probably the hardest. According to the video, article, and piece in the book, the boys had been living in makeshift huts in a refugee camp where they had to find and cook their own food. Once they got to America, they were placed in houses and apartments, and they had to get used to things such as flush toilets, pre-cooked food, and supermarkets. After living in the refugee camp for most of their lives, the US would be incredibly difficult to get used to. Though they did face other problems according to the book, such as loneliness and a lack of money, many Americans have to go through those as well, but they don’t have to deal with a brand new place where everything is done differently. No one who has lived in America (or any first world country) would be able to understand their struggles with cultural differences.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**

**Sample 3**

The struggle of the refugees is that they do not know anybody. The refugees did not have a mother, a dad or anyone to look out for them. They did not know how to work. They did not know how to eat or open anything to eat. The refugees had a very hard struggle. They had to walk across hundreds and hundreds of miles to escape war in their country. The Africans had to encounter wild animals. The Africans had to deal with the cold and they were used to the hot temperature. It was -15 degrees and they had no coats. They could have gotten sickness and disease. They could have gotten pneumonia, hypothermia, and frost bite. The refugees put up a big battle from Sudan to America and they did ok. The refugees started out with 17000, then ended up with 3600. They lost 13400.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**

**Sample 4**

I think loneliness would be most difficult. Moving to a place where you know no one is big. Not having the company of someone you know is depressing. You’re facing this change alone, is how I feel. In the story, “The Lost Boys,” the boys had no idea how to open a box or do anything, so they were starving until someone as able to teach them. Also in school, they know no one and everything is new, plus they didn’t go to the same schools. I’d say it is harder than all of the other ones because they were given money they could survive off of, and the weather wouldn’t be terrible, it would just take some time getting used to it. Culture? Not an issue. The US isn’t really big on bashing other cultures. So yeah, that’s why I think loneliness is the most difficult for them. People need love and company. They were just thrown in another country with no one and knowing nothing. Sad.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**

**Sample 5**

I think the most difficult thing the refugees faced in America was the culture shock. I would have to say it was the culture shock because they weren’t really in tact with what was going on in America. They didn’t know they could eat because they had never eaten things out of a box. I also think they had a problem with the new climate. I think they had a problem with the new climate because back in Sudan it was always hot, but when they come to America we have four different seasons. The four seasons have different temperatures. So climate and the culture shock are what I think the refugees had a difficult time with in America.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**

**Sample 6**

I feel like the most difficult thing for Africans coming to America was how they adapted to our environment. It was difficult for them because they don’t know how to do everything we do. The African environment and the American environment are completely different. Some of the Africans were looked at differently. They were also lonely. They were lonely because a lot of Americans didn’t accept them for who they were. The climate is also different. Their climate is always hot while ours have cold and hot temperatures.

**Low Medium High**

**Rationale and suggestions for improvement:**