

Watkinson school has different experiences, opinions or views on homeless people. 27 students at Watkinson school answered a questionnaire on homelessness. Two of the questions I asked were basic, asking Have you ever given to a homeless person? and Do you have a family member or friend that has experienced homelessness? Only 30% of people have a family or friend that has experienced homelessness. Students were asked how they perceived and their thoughts on homeless people. Most of the answers were pity, sympathy, sadness, and people who struggle. There is one answer that did catch my eye. "An overwhelming majority of people who are unhoused have experienced personal trauma and a failure of a system meant to serve them, whether that be education or some other kind of institution." - Anonymous. The phrase "failure of a system" raises the question of those who fall unhoused are caused by the system. Those who fall into the issue of being homeless are because of the system failing to help them. This also shows how the government bats an eye to this issue. The big question I asked the Watkinson community was if they believed that homeless people are below them. Somehow some Watkinson students were able to turn the question around and used the answer of being less fortunate than themselves. Though one student said, "I believe that they are because they are less fortunate than me and it's not a bad thing, it's just the truth." I feel like this is what people want to say but can't because they are too afraid of what society will think of them. After reading all the responses, I feel like the world has become so sensitive on people's opinions, that we

know have to rely on pity in order to not feel cancelable. My response would be yes they are lower because we live in a society where people are going to put you in class system where you are lower than someone who owns a house and isn't living on the streets.