Bridgette:

* Really involved on campus – mentorship aspects with younger students as an orientation leader, might be a TA, Arabic language org, African society, black student union
* Odyssey scholar – honors program but with a financial component – built in community
* 7:15 – starts talking about financial situation
* 7:20 – “What is really interesting about campus is that most people are actually on loans, but they don’t want you to think they’re on loans.”
* 7:40 – Her family situation, running on only a one-person income
* 8:00 – Can’t pay for everything herself, but can’t get complete financial aid either
* 9:30 – Talking about spending money on presenting a certain image, and why she doesn’t care/do that – frugal/ doesn’t want to be conformist\*
* 10:28 – “It’s mostly about how people assume that since I’m a black student on campus, I’m on scholarship, or that they assume I understand certain things like, yeah, I’ve traveled … they assume that since you’re here, you’ve done xyz. “
* Goes on to say, “I have a lot of great support around me, so when people do act in that way I educate them and move on. Because ultimately I can’t get mad at every single thing that people say or do to me.”
* 11:15 – talks about planting a seed of an idea, even if people don’t appear to be receptive
* 11:40 – Most people she’s talked to about it just say they never knew, because they came from a place of privilege where they didn’t have to think about things in a certain way
* 12:45 – “I’ve just kinda been raised to always find a way. Like if I really want it I’ll find a way, which is why I’m here at Elon.”
* 13:05 – Greek life on campus
* 13:30 – “A lot of people are in Greek life and it has a very large influence on campus, so for some people, there’s that pressure to be in it, but I’m just like, I’ll be friends with you anyway.”
* 14:37 – “Her mom, and growing up in this kind of situation, and having to adapt.”
* 15:00 – Having to balance home and school life, knowing that her mom is alone at the house – financial pressures leading, indirectly, to sacrificing family for school (not as dramatic as that makes it sound)
* Family dynamic – parents worry about kids (academics), kids worry about parents (money)
* 15:25 – Influence of friends
* 15:45 – people buying new wardrobes for Elon
* 16:11 – “Textbooks have been a very big struggle for me”
* 16:25 – “and that’s one thing with professors that I don’t think they realize a lot of the time, not everyone here is able to drop 200 dollars on a book.”
* 16:50 – “I even know people who have changed majors because of the amount of textbooks and the amount of money it is. And I think that people just need to be cognizant of the fact that money is a factor.”
* 18:45 – “I lucked out. Yes I deserve this, but there are so many other people who deserve this as well”
* 18:55 – Something about the perception that if you’re not on scholarship you’re just rolling in dough, and that’s just not it.

Dante:

* Treasurer for space, which is domestic violence and sexual abuse/assault awareness organization, vice president of sierra club
* Works at mosely front desk, core curriculum as a student researcher, and an RA in global
* 3:00 – On scholarship, which was the reason for him coming to Elon
* 3:20 – Works so much to fund his eventual trip to Germany as part of the dual-degree business program
* 5:22 – financial pressures at home lead to having a bunch of jobs, jobs take way time-wise,
* 5:40 – talks about prioritizing, working vs. social life
* 6:00 – talks about feeling like he’s been able to find a balance
* 6:20 – just straight up does more work than other people, maybe takes away from social experiences a little bit, but thinks that by prioritizing school is able to keep up with the important stuff needed to be successful
* 7:43 – “I guess you could say that I see myself as an outlier, because while that is a stereotype of Elon students, there’s still a degree of accuracy… There’s a lot of rich kid who have rich parents who chuck ‘em off down here, so it’s not completely inaccurate... so I definitely see myself as an outlier. But I don’t think I’m the only one either.”
* Still thinks he’s in some kind of minority in terms of money/ social group…

**Themes:**

* Belonging
  + Bridgette:
    - Not spending money on keeping up an image (out)
    - More people than you think on loans (common experience)
  + Dante:
    - Raw amount of time required for work reduces time for socializing
    - Feels that the rich-kid image holds some truth, feels like a minority in terms of his social situation
* Community involvement
  + Both are really involved on campus
* Academics
  + Both have been able to succeed academically despite financial pressures
  + Both talked about financial pressures creating a need for prioritization, and for finding a balance

Financial pressures changing students’ experiences in subtle ways.

Academics, for one. Challenges presented. But both are successful academically. Dante able to pursue Germany program

Able to be successful because of prioritization – financial pressure causing the need for prioritzation

Despite… don’t seem to feel excluded on campus. Dante say blah a little bit… but both are really involved on campus.