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**AFRICAN STUDIES TRIP REPORT**

I held a mixture of curiosity and assumptions about the three places we visited. I expected each site to be historically rich, deeply connected to Ghana’s cultural heritage, and perhaps emotionally intense—especially those linked to the transatlantic slave trade. I also assumed that some of the places would present a more "tourist-friendly" version of history rather than the raw truth.

Upon visiting, I realized that my perceptions were partially accurate, but I was also surprised. The emotional weight of the slave dungeons and memorials was more profound than I had imagined. The narratives were not sugar-coated—they were raw, honest, and deeply moving. At the same time, the warmth of the local communities and the resilience embedded in the stories shared shifted my view from seeing these places merely as historical sites to living spaces that carry the legacy of resistance and survival.

As an African Studies student, this trip was transformative. It deepened my understanding of Africa beyond textbooks. I really felt how difficult it was for the slaves inside the dungeon. I now see Ghana not just as a country of historical trauma, but also of strength, pride, and continuity.