Recently our group had the opportunity to sit down and talk with the Assistant Professor of Management at Jackson State University, Dr. Samuel Perkins, about his latest research. Dr. Perkins has been conducting research on the operations of inner city public school districts across America. His research was very insightful. He reviewed the highs and lows of public education. During our group interview with Dr. Perkins, we learned a lot about his research and how passionate he felt about it. As a group we were able to ask a number of questions of how he gained his research result. Dr. Perkins informed us that he had used both quantitative and qualitative research. He gained his qualitative research through previous records and the work of other researchers dealing with this same subject matter. Dr. Perkins qualitative research was likely what his findings were through his own researching process and what he discovered from other previous findings. The research that he conducted dealt with the education system. He let us know that the public schools in our metropolitan area, compared to schools in the surrounding area, such as Madison, Brandon, and Pearl, were very different, in a bad way when it comes to education. Dr. Perkins stated, that the white students test scores in English, Math, Science, are higher and better than black students. Now in the education system and from Dr. Perkins research, there is a lack of funds, books, and resources for the Jackson Public School systems than other school systems such as Brandon, Clinton, Madison, Pearl, Ridgeland, and Scott. As a group we know that there are a lot of black teachers lacking the school systems, but Dr. Perkins also stated, there are a lot of white teachers predominately in our black school systems. Most black students are not fully prepared for the future and lack certain skills such as, communication, leadership, networking, and reading therefore the white students will continue to get jobs, nice cars and houses, and a better education than blacks. Dr. Perkins stated that the generation we live in today is not the same as when, he was growing up. When black students come to school they tend to be lazy, expect for the teacher to give them a easy grade so they can just pass without learning any information and, he said that’s the problem black folks now are used to somebody giving them something without working for it. Black people do not want to work or better themselves in life they just want to stick in one particular thing they are doing. Another valuable education knowledge fact Dr. Perkins told us that was interesting was there are now a lot of young parents. When you tend to grow up with young parents they tend not to really care and focus on your child’s education than older parents would. As a group it gave us a good understanding as to what we should or should not expect to do. Dr. Perkins stated, “That African American students aren’t as passionate and determined about getting an education as they did when he was in grade school.” Even though there were lack of resources available for him and his fellow students back then, they were still determined to do whatever they had to do to get an education. He also stated that back in his education times there were plenty of support backing their education, such as help from the community, church and etc. Because of the lack of support in the community now, more African American students tend to drop out of school, as early as middle school, or end up being young parents.

Even though Dr. Perkins research was very different from our research, we still could see how important research was for a variety of things. After asking Dr. Perkins about his research we also learned some helpful tips on how we should conduct our own research project. The offsite research assignment wasn’t really relevant to our project either, but just the mere thought of doing anything, after listening to the professors, onsite and offsite, let us know that research is always going to be required in order to get accurate results. Without doing research, there wouldn’t be validation for anything. Before starting the research methods class, we as a group didn’t really know nothing about conducting research, but now that we actually have been involved in research and learning about it through other departments, we all enjoy doing research and have a different perspective about it. During our interview with Dr. Perkins, he also mentioned that he would be presenting his research in March 2012, at a conference in New Orleans, LA. We greatly appreciated Dr. Perkins taking out the time to discuss his research with us. The one thing I found to be most inspiring about Dr. Perkins research was the way he devoted himself and his time to the way he conduct his research.