

Topic: Autobiographical Writing

Essay By: Courtney, July 2007

Photos Taken By: Phillip Dirks & Blanca Fernandez, July 2007

New Orleans, Post-Katrina

Imagine losing everything you own to a summer's storm. Being unprepared and not knowing where to go, or what do you do next? Due to Hurricane Katrina, the city of



New Orleans flooded, and many of its residents lost their homes. Driving through the Lake View area, located in New Orleans, I witnessed the devastation the neighborhood suffered, and the damage was shocking.

In the Lower Ninth Ward things were much worse. It was as if the entire neighborhood had not been occupied. For blocks there were just empty lots and foundation from the homes that once

sat upon them. Every few lots there might be a torn up house, but for the most part, it was as if the Lower Ninth Ward was a ghost town.

Imagine yourself coming home and walking up your driveway. When you reach your front door, you realize it's not there. You look up only to find yourself walking onto the empty lot where your home once stood. How can you call this pile of debris home? How can such a disaster be known as home?

This did not happen to just a few neighborhoods in New Orleans, but throughout the entire city. New Orleans was destroyed by the monstrous winds of



Hurricane Katrina and the flood that came with it. Hearing the infamous tune "*Do You Know What It Means to Miss New Orleans*" now has an entirely different meaning to me. New Orleans may never be the same after this incident.