when I applied to border immersion I hoped to gain a better understanding about immigration and issues going between the Mexican American border. Nevertheless, I have gained a tremendous understanding about the real issues regarding undocumented individuals who cross the border. We took a walk on the desert and was one of the activities that actually helped me understand the horrible conditions immigrants go through when they cross the desert in hopes of coming to the United States. There were backpacks and clothing left on the ground. There were crosses placed on the ground around the places where undocumented workers were unable to continue their journey and died. There houses nearby, however, these individuals were so afraid of being deported that they decided to avoid interacting with Americans. We walked for about an hour and I was exhausted by the time we were done. I cannot imagine the terrible conditions immigrants face when they walk in this desert for hours! Afterwards, we visited operation streamline and I saw the most dehumanizing situation. Undocumented individuals faced the judged and in a matter of minutes they received a sentenced. I felt anger the entire time especially when the judge came to talk to us and pointed at the chairs where the undocumented individuals had sat and said that they were uneducated people. At that point I began to cry…. How could this man who is a judge say that? I am Mexican and listening to his comments truly hurt my feelings. In addition, while the undocumented individuals were called I heard their last names and I heard my last name a few times…. these could have been my family members, of course I did not know anyone but yet listening to my last name made me connect with the undocumented. I made eye contact with some and their eyes conveyed sadness. Their hopes to come to a country where they could perhaps find a better future were completely gone.