



# ASHINAGA UGANDA

Tess Bissell

Class of 2017

Nansana, Uganda

# What kind of work did I do?

- Teaching: Reading and Writing Skills, SAT Critical Reading and Writing, Community Betterment, Public Speaking
- Media Team (PR and Alumni Relations)
- College Counseling for US applicants
- Emotional support: buddy to one student from Ethiopia and one student from Swaziland for entirety of program

# Product of a Critical Reading class well-spent:



## **Most rewarding aspects of the internship:**

- Developing individual relationships with the 100-Year Vision Scholars and seeing them make huge improvements
- Being one small part of Ashinaga's amazing vision and working with the dedicated staff (including the founder!)
- Meeting and learning from interns from all over the world

One of my students, who is heading to university in the UK this fall to study law!



# Ashinaga's youngest students: The Terakoya Kids



# Opening Ceremony at the Kokorojuku



# How my work impacted the organization:

- We had the freedom to make many changes to the program because the 100-Year Vision is very new (this was only the second year!) These changes included:
- New syllabi for SAT Critical Reading and Writing classes
- Empowering the students to run the Community Betterment program to gain leadership skills
- Multiple workshops on standardized test prep and college counseling to train other interns
- A proposal to include students from Ashinaga's Rainbow House into the 100-Year Vision program

Saying goodbye 😞



# How my experience has impacted my academic choices and career plan:

- This internship has given me a new sense of purpose and direction, both personal, career, and academic.
- Personal: I discovered my “kokorozashi” (the Japanese word for “heart’s goal” or personal motivation), which is to bring education to those who do not have access to it, and to empower others through knowledge and learning
- Career: I loved Ashinaga so much that I decided I want to spend the rest of my life working in higher education access, teaching, and/or the non-profit sector (and hopefully working for Ashinaga again!)
- Academic: I’ve decided to pursue a degree in Comparative Literature, and eventually to share my love for languages and literature with others through teaching.

... we had time to have fun, too!



**White-water  
rafting on  
the Nile River**



^That's me

Thank you for a life-changing summer, IIP!

