Despite all the negatives surrounding the favelas, it is important to recognise that many people live there and live happy lives. Lots of people are trying to change the favelas at the moment in order to improve them, here are 4 stories of people living in the favelas:

Leandro – 13 – always lived in the favela

"I play football and fly my kite on the roof with my brother and mates".

"I sometimes go down to the shopping centre in Gavea and if I see someone I ask "Can I guard your car?", if he says yes, I then wait for him and earn 3 or 4 pounds. I have a couple of games of pinball and give the rest of the money to my mum".

"I go to school and hope to study and live in a real apartment when I'm older, but its' difficult to study at home sometimes because even though there is electricity, we can't afford to use it too much to light our house every night."

Felipe – rich businessman – lives next to the favela

"I came to the city 15 years ago and now live in a home with a swimming pool. I'm happy, but I thought the favelas would have been demolished by now. I'm looking forward to watching the Olympics in 2016, but visitors don't want to hear gunshots from the police chasing gangs in the favelas - it might scare the tourists away!".

"I took a ride in the new cable car the other day. It was great, but the view of the favelas ruins it. Some of the buildings looked like they were collapsing and I even saw an open sewer; it's very unhealthy. I hope the government relocate everyone soon."

Pedro – 75 – lived in Rocinha since 1950

"I am 75 years old and have seen lots of changes in Rocinha. When I arrived in 1950, there was still space to grow fruit such as mangoes and we played in the streets and felt safe".

"Today the buildings are all on top of each other and the alleyways are dark. Even though there are now over 120,000 people living here, there is still only 1 bus into Rocinha."

"Now that I am getting old I am finding it much harder to climb uphill with my shopping and carry my rubbish away to be disposed. I have been lucky with my health but it gets difficult for old people to stay live in such cramped homes, especially when it rains and your house leaks".

Clothilda – 33 – lives in Rocinha with her 3 children

"I am a cleaner and I work in one of the apartments you can see from my roof". I moved to Rio over 10 years ago with my husband as he was struggling to make a living growing coffee, but everyone had a similar idea. We still struggle to make enough money to eat healthily as fresh food is more expensive in the favela, but we wouldn't want to move anywhere else now. I have friends here and I like to catch up and read their fortunes at weekends".

"People get the wrong idea about the favelas; sure there are bad things like the criminals that kill innocent people who have done nothing wrong, but its' better than it was and youth clubs have been set up to prevent our children getting into trouble".

**Task**

Part 1 – read through each character and decide who has the easiest life in the favela and who has the most difficult.

Part 2 - Fill in a table like the one on the board giving the positives and negatives of each of the people’s lives in the favela.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
|  | Positive aspects of the favela | Negative aspects of the favela |
| Leanardo |  |  |
| Felipe |  |  |
| Pedro |  |  |
| Clothilda |  |  |

Part 3 – Pick one of the characters above and write a letter to the town planners telling them how they could make life in the favela better for you.

* State what character you are.
* State a little bit about your background
* Talk about what you would like to change.

Dear Mr Alves,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Let me tell you a little about me \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

I think changes are needed in my favela. One change that is needed \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Another change \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_.

Thanks for taking the time to read my letter,

Kind regards,

\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_