When I told my family and friends that I was going to Vietnam they were terrified and it wasn't only because I was traveling so far from home, it was the destination. They couldn't stop thinking of Vietnam as a place where a horrible war took place and they were afraid of how I would be treated as an American coming to their country. I tried to reassure them that we would be received well and even showed them statistics about traveling to Vietnam but they were not swayed. If I had told them I was traveling to a country like England, Germany, or Ireland or even France they wouldn't have been upset like that. They wouldn't have feared it in the same way or to such an extreme because the people there aren't viewed so different from us and they know more about the history between America and those countries, or they at least think they do. I know it wasn't even an intentional or conscious thought of theirs but they were being judgmental of the people when they didn't have any facts or information to base their fears on. They simply feared the unknown which is something I thought I was taught to not do. Vietnam is a beautiful place that is about as scary as every other country my family would have been comfortable with me traveling to. I understand that things can always go wrong and I'm by no means disregarding that but you cannot see a culture that is completely opposite of yours and just assume the worst. My work will show the beauty of not only the country but the culture and people as well.