

ENRICHMENT VIDEO – WORKSHEETS

The Widening Participation Team at Queen Mary University of London created their video 'Making decisions about University' for teachers to use as a resource during enrichment sessions in school.

It is suitable for a range of age groups and is focused on dispelling myths about what university is and who it is for. Each of the three students who speak in the video made their decisions for different reasons.

The worksheets within this booklet are suitable for Year 7 students (fill in the blanks, wordsearch) through to Year 12 (poem and definitions). Answers and the full script are on the back pages.

We hope you find the video and worksheets useful, if you have any feedback we are always happy to hear from teachers and contacts in schools and colleges: wp-enquiries@qmul.ac.uk

Page 1 Fill in the blanks

Mary:

When you are told you are _____ (1), you begin to place limits on _____ (1) and your _____ (1).

My parents _____ (2) to university. Going to university wasn't _____ (1) of me.

I was one of those inner-city school kids who had missed out on those basic _____ (1).

Ryan

I wanted to be _____ (1) I was making the _____ (1) decision. So I asked for lots of _____ (1) from lots of different _____ (1).

I was _____ (1) from all five of my university choices.

It turns out my _____ (1) grades were too low.

No matter where you end up things _____ (2) and that's a good thing.


Sivan

I have always felt the need to do well. Particularly in my _____ (1).

I was accepted at Queen Mary for _____ (2) I was _____ (1) and relieved.

You have the power to level the playing field. Start early, remember _____ (1) matter. Never _____ (1) and be determined about work experience.

Which of these pictures link with Ryan, Mary or Sivan?

		
Name: _____	Name: _____	Name: _____

Page 2 Observation and Discussion

Quotes

Match the quote to the student: Ryan, Mary or Sivan:

'No matter where you think you will end up, things always change' _____

'With hard work, possibilities are endless' _____

'You have the power to level the playing field' _____

Observation

Write down all the words which appear on the screen.

Factual Questions

1. Which two subjects did Ryan consider studying?
2. What was the pivotal point in Mary's life?
3. What did Sivan do to prepare for university?
4. Which three courses does Sivan speak about?
5. Which students mention their parents – why?

Discussion Questions (your opinion)

1. Why do you think Ryan was told he would never be a dentist?
2. What subject do you think Mary studies?
3. Why do you think Mary hid her passion for learning?
4. The opening lines of Mary and Ryan's talks are negative. Discuss how other people can affect *your* outlook. Do you allow other people to do this?
5. If you could ask any of the students a question, what would it be?
6. Each student explains their decision-making. What could each of them have done differently to help themselves more?
7. What do you think Sivan means when she says 'start early'?

Page 3 Poem and Definitions

Look at the first stanza of Emily Dickinson's poem, *We never know how high we are*:

*We never know how high we are
Till we are asked to rise
And then if we are true to plan
Our statures touch the skies —*

Consider this poem in relation to the video. Did everything go 'true to plan' for Mary, Ryan and Sivan? If not, how did they overcome the obstacles in their way?

What are your aspirations and obstacles (if any)? Do you, like Sivan, have a 'Plan B'?

Whose story do you relate to the most?

What do you think is meant by these words when they are used in public reports and documents? Do they mean something different to you?

- Disadvantaged
- Opportunity
- Potential
- Best start in life

University Word Search

O U I V F C A O C Q S O M D N
C A B H B P P J F A W L Q A K
T P T U I T I O N L F E E S F
D E T A U D A R G R E D N U C
K E K E L L O A N Y H C R W O
U K G Q V M Y W B O G G P C S
G D D R A S U T C E P S O R P
S I B L E C D S H P R U P R I
M F U D E E W W Z I V P W K K
C R R Z F C J G J M G M C V I
F N S Q U F T F M O S A R R O
O R A X J N I U U Q Z C T V J
Z E R W G H R O R M E F H K L
T Y Y D L Q S Z H E P J V X D
L X R U S S E L L C G R O U P

UNDERGRADUATE

CAMPUS

TUITION FEES

LOAN

BURSARY

DEGREE

PROSPECTUS

LECTURE

RUSSELL GROUP

What do each of these words or phrases mean?

Can you find some of the words in the *7 – 11 Students' Guide to University*?




How many universities are there in the UK?

How many Russell Group Universities are there?

ANSWERS

Picture Question

Which of these pictures link with Ryan, Mary or Sivan?

		
Name: Sivan	Name: Ryan	Name: Mary

Fill in the blanks

Mary:

When you are told you are **disadvantaged** (1), you begin to place limits on **yourself** (1) and your **abilities** (1).

My parents **didn't go** (2) to university. Going to university wasn't **expected** (1) of me.

I was one of those inner-city school kids who had missed out on those basic **experiences** (1).

Ryan

I wanted to be **confident** (1) I was making the **right** (1) decision. So I asked for lots of **advice** (1) from lots of different **people** (1).

I was **rejected** (1) from all five of my university choices.

It turns out my **predicted** (1) grades were too low.

No matter where you end up things **always change** (2) and that's a good thing.

Sivan

I have always felt the need to do well. Particularly in my **education** (1).

I was accepted at Queen Mary for **Biomedical Sciences** (2) I was **elated** (1) and relieved.

You have the power to level the playing field. Start early, remember **GCSE's** (1) matter. Never **assume** (1) and be determined about work experience.

Quotes

Match the quote to the student: Ryan, Mary or Sivan:

- | | |
|---|-------|
| 'No matter where you think you will end up, things always change' | Ryan |
| 'With hard work, possibilities are endless' | Mary |
| 'You have the power to level the playing field' | Sivan |

Observation

Write down all the words which appear on the screen. Discuss these words.

When you are told you are disadvantaged.

Motivator

Parents, opportunity

And assume

I love learning

Wasn't expected of me

Definite in my future

You have the power

With hard work

Grow and develop

Factual Questions

- | | |
|--|---|
| 6. Which two subjects did Ryan consider studying? | Music or Dentistry |
| 7. What was the pivotal point in Mary's life? | The death of her friend |
| 8. What did Sivan do to prepare for university? | Lots of work experience |
| 9. Which three courses does Sivan speak about? | Medicine, Biomedical Sciences, Clinical Neuro-Science |
| 10. Which students mention their parents – why?
didn't have the opportunity to go to university | Mary and Sivan – because their parents |

Discussion Questions (your opinion)

8. Why do you think Ryan was told he will never be a dentist?
9. What subject do you think Mary studies?
10. Why do you think Mary hid her passion for learning?
11. The opening lines of Mary and Ryan's talks are negative. Discuss how other people can affect *your* outlook. Do you allow other people to do this?
12. If you could ask any of the students a question, what would it be?
13. Each student explains their decision-making. What could each of them have done differently to help themselves more?
14. What do you think Sivan means when she says 'start early'?

University Word Search

— — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
— — — — — — — — — — — — — — —
D E T U I T I O N F E E S —
— E — — — L O A N — — — — —
— — G — — — — — — — — —
— — — R — S U T C E P S O R P
— — B L E — — — — — — U — — —
— — U — E E — — — — — P — — —
— — R — — C — — — — — M — — —
— — S — — — T — — — — — A — — —
— — A — — — — U — — — — — C — — —
— — R — — — — — — R — — — — —
— — Y — — — — — — — E — — — — —
— — R U S S E L L — — — — — G R O U P

How many universities are there in the UK? **Over 100**

How many Russell Group Universities are there? **24**

FULL SCRIPT

Mary

When you are told you are disadvantaged, you begin to place limits on yourself and your abilities. You start to think there is only so far you can go and only so much you can achieve. This was true for me. But when I was fifteen my friend died suddenly. This incident marked a pivotal point in my life. From then on my life had to mean something and external factors were no longer going to prevent me from reaching my potential.

Ryan

You will never be a dentist.

These are the words of a dentist I met whilst on my summer work experience in 2011. And he was almost right. When I was younger music was my passion. I played trumpet in a local band where I met a local girl. Love is a great motivator and I threw myself into music; writing, playing and entering competitions. A few years later, things changed. I had to have braces, and shortly afterwards I developed a condition called Bells palsy, which paralysed half of my face. Not ideal for playing trumpet but it did teach me a lot about the human body and the effect that dentistry can have on our lives. And that's really where it all started.

Sivan

I have always felt the need to do well, particularly in my education. I am the eldest child in my family, I've got three younger brothers. Neither of my parents had the opportunity to go to university, so I am the first. I decided I wanted a career in Medicine. My family didn't know any medical professionals but I was determined. I contacted consultants everywhere I could and got myself lots of work experience. I was predicted the right GCSEs and assumed I would get them.

Mary

I love learning. It has always been something I have enjoyed doing. It maybe wasn't the coolest thing to be interested in when you are in school so I hid that passion quite a bit. My parents didn't go to university, going to university wasn't expected of me and it definitely wasn't the natural next step.

Sivan

I didn't get the GCSEs needed to apply to Medicine. I had serious doubts about whether I could get in. I took my chances and decided to apply anyway. I am originally from Kurdistan, I spent the summer there and waited anxiously for my A-level results.

Ryan

In Year 12 I had a really big choice to make: music or dentistry. And I wanted to be confident that I was making the right decision. So I asked for lots of advice from lots of different people. But in the end it came down to one simple thing for me I could do music as a hobby but not Dentistry. With that in mind I had just two months left to do everything required for my university application.

Sivan

I didn't get into medical school. I was accepted at Queen Mary for Biomedical Sciences. I was elated and relieved.

Ryan

I was rejected from all five of my university choices. I was absolutely devastated and I had no idea what had gone wrong. It turns out my predicted grades were too low. It was something I hadn't even thought about and I hadn't checked. I ended up taking a year out.

Mary

At sixth form my teachers opened my eyes to a new academic world and new cultural experiences. I was studying at the foot of London with museums at my disposal. Up until then I think I was one of those inner-city school kids who missed out on those basic experiences that really develops an individual intellectually and gives them an appreciation for learning. It was then that I discovered that university is a definite in my future.

Sivan

I have finished my degree. It was an amazing three years. Now I'm studying Clinical Neuroscience and will be re-applying for Medicine next summer. If you are considering university in your future, remember you will be applying to the same universities and the same courses as lots of other students. Students who you may think have a better chance

than you. You have the power to level the playing field. Start early, remember GCSEs matter, never assume and be determined about work experience.

Mary

I am not super human and maybe I haven't had the best start in life. Obstacles will always be present. But on my journey to university if I have learnt one thing, it's this: with hard work possibilities are endless.

Ryan

I still knew that I really wanted to be a dentist and taking a gap year was a small price to pay. I grew up a lot in that year and I realised that no matter where you think you will end up, things always change and that's a good thing because being prepared to grow and develop as life happens around you is really all part of the fun.