

Learning
enabled

Seven students
Seven stories

2

Declan

Visual Impairment



Synopsis:

This film give us an insight into the life of Declan, a student who has limited vision. He tells his own story as he walks around campus, describing his experiences as a student. He has assistive technology to support access to course material and lecture notes. He also has a note-taker to help in lectures. It can be confusing for him when people do not use his name when they speak to him, as he cannot see whom they are speaking to. However, having online materials and material provided in advance of lectures is of great benefit to him as he can be ready to access this in class.

Two minute free-write:

- What is your immediate response to this story? What questions do you have about this story?

Questions for group discussion:

- You have had a short time to reflect in free-writing for two minutes. If you have a question following the two-minute free-write, can we share those questions?
- Do you have any students with visual impairments in your classes?
- What accommodations would you need to make for a student with a visual impairment in your classes?
- In your institution, can you access the supports for visually impaired students that were highlighted in this story?
- Would you consider the accommodations that are made for these students to be 'reasonable'?
- Do you think there are courses where it is reasonable not to accept students with a visual impairment?

Finding out more:

- You can find out more about this topic at the AHEAD website, <http://www.ahead.ie>
- If you have never taught or supervised a student with a visual impairment, do you know who to talk to in your own department or organisation about supporting those students?
- What information has your institution provided to help you?