

Learning
enabled

Seven students
Seven stories

6

Tom

Dyslexia



Synopsis:

This film tells the story of Tom, a dyslexic student who is starting postgraduate studies. He has been given an extensive reading list in order to prepare a literature review as the starting point for his course. He quickly realises that he will not be able to complete the work in the timescale expected by his supervisor. However, his supervisor is surprised by this, and is unaware of the difficulties the exercise presents to the student. The student tells the supervisor about his dyslexia, and they consult the Disabilities Officer for more support. The supervisor attends the Assistive Technology Centre with Tom and sees for himself how technology helps the student, but also becomes fully aware of the amount of time Tom will need to complete his work.

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 dyslexic students in your classes? How did you become aware of their dyslexia?
- If a postgraduate student who was dyslexic came to you for supervision, what accommodations would you need to make for him/her?
- In your institution, can you access the technologies that you saw being demonstrated in this story?
- Would you consider the accommodations that are made for dyslexic students to be 'reasonable'?
- How do other students respond to dyslexic students in class?
- Do you think this story was true to life?

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 dyslexia, do you know who to talk to in your own department or organisation about supporting dyslexic students?