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Ennis’ Gift

1. People with learning differences tend to have low self-esteem because they think that they are stupid compared to their fellow peers who may understand and interpret information more easily than them. Labels like “special education” contribute to the problem by isolating them from the general population; this could lead to low self-esteem because they may think that they aren’t as capable as the general population.
2. The people that called their learning difference a “blessing” or a “gift” called it a blessing because they actually do learn different than most people. Their learning difference gives them the ability to see things from a different perspective and maybe solve issues that seem complex to most people but simple to them.
3. The effect of Bill Cosby exposing Troy Brown’s dyslexia in front of the school benefited Troy Brown. He was finally able to accept that he has a learning difference and from there on he’s had a successful life, being the youngest dean in the state of Mississippi and a good father to his son.
4. Some coping mechanisms that people with learning difference utilize are that they think of it as a blessing instead of a disability. Another coping mechanism I saw in the video was what Don Winkler CEO did. He had a routine where he would go to bed around 9 and wake up at 3 in the morning to do simple math and work on his pronunciation of certain words. He learned to adapt to his situation.
5. Expectations influence children by adding pressure to perform well in school. If a child is struggling in school, the children’s parents should ultimately be that child’s advocate because they know their children the best compared to teachers and principals.
6. The video proved that those with learning differences can be skilled in other areas besides language by showing Ann Bancroft. She was the first woman to finish expeditions to the Arctic and Antarctic showing that her learning difference couldn’t stop her from accomplishing incredible tasks.
7. The theme I think ran throughout the video was ambition. The people who lived with a learning difference were told throughout their life, that they wouldn’t be successful and live up to big expectations. But they all proved them wrong, some going into acting and others even graduating college. They never doubted themselves of being different from others and not being able to succeed.
8. Qualities that can result from overcoming a learning disability is learning to adjust to difficult situations and being more optimistic than others. If they could overcome their learning disability they could have the mind set to do anything.
9. The reference of hope for struggling students is to send them a message telling them that they may have a learning difference and that they aren’t stupid if that’s what they think of themselves.
10. Students are relieved when they are officially diagnosed with a learning difference because they finally know why they struggle at times to comprehend information when it should be fairly easy. Knowing what the reason is lifts a lot of weight of their shoulders.
11. The people who accomplished certain tasks that we may take for granted over their glorified actions are more proud of the former, because it was a harder task for them to complete because of their learning difference. I remember Ann Bancroft talking about her journey to the North Pole when she stated she was about to give up. She said that she graduated college, and that this journey was nothing compared to what she went through in college.
12. After watching the video, I was mesmerized by what all these people had accomplished. A few of them were glorified actors, there was a paleontologist, a gold Olympic athlete, and even people who graduated college and had successful lives. I realized that you can accomplish a lot of things no matter what situation you may have.