

Learning
enabled

Seven students
Seven stories

4

Michael

Asperger's Syndrome



Synopsis:

This film tells the story of Michael, an undergraduate student who has Asperger's Syndrome. The film is a narrated account of his experiences, highlighting that teaching schedules and assignments could present specific challenges to Michael. For example, he may spend too much time on assessed work and submit far more material than he needs to. He may find that groupwork and social interactions are severely challenging to him. However, the support services provided to help students with disabilities can help to reduce these hurdles. Some services will offer text message reminders to students with Asperger's to support routine. Clarity about the nature of assessments and required work for courses will also help.

Two minute free-write:

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

Questions for group discussion:

- Do you have any questions about the detail of this story: were you familiar with Asperger's Syndrome and its characteristics?
- 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?
- Have you ever taught a student with Asperger's Syndrome? Can you describe how you approached teaching this student?
- What accommodations would you need to make for a student with Asperger's in your classes?
- In your institution, can you access the supports for a student with Asperger's that were highlighted in this story?
- How would you manage the responses of other students to a student with Asperger's? For example, how would you manage groupwork or shared projects?
- 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 Asperger's Syndrome, would you know who to talk to in your own department or organisation about supporting that student?
- What information has your institution provided to help you?
- [more?]