

CLASSMATE 1:

I found all four videos to be inspirational in the challenges that many people face in life. I felt as though I shared similar experiences in the first two videos although different as well. I do not have a mental defect that I know of, well maybe in math that is a foreign language to me, but I understand the feelings of frustration in understanding. I was placed in resource classes in school because I struggled to keep up with the class. I would lose myself in dreams imagining different lives like a movie playing out from beginning to end, that was how I coped with reality of my life and my low self-esteem. It was the only time I felt normal in my childhood. After struggling, I did give up on achieving an education which has had a noticeable impacts on my life. The second video of America's forgotten working class had a twist from what I thought the topic would be about. Instead it was an insight of an average childhood, one that lived. I had an abusive father, I don't remember a day he did not hit my mother me or my sisters up until the time they divorced. My mom followed his pattern of abusive behavior although not as severe, but enough that we were put in child protection services. I eventually ran away from foster care not able to see a future or the purpose having an unattainable goal and took my chances on my own. In some respects, I have succeeded in changing my fate that many people claimed would be my destiny and beat the odds. I have also stunned people especially with my choice to become a law enforcement officer, they assumed I would be apart of the criminal justice system from the offender's point of view. From where I have been and where I am today, one thing for certain is I never imagined I would be participating in class discussions attending college. I thought the videos reflected events and feelings many people go through and have in common with each other. For me, I feel the speakers were inspiring that if a person has the will and determination they can overcome obstacles or least not to give up without trying.

CLASSMATE 2:

I think that the first of the Ted Talks videos had the best of the thesis statements because when she started off stating exactly what she was going to be talking about and hooked you with a joke that "she is a lucid dreamer and it is better than in the movies". Right off the bat she has you hooked and you already know what she is going to be talking about. She uses her thesis statement to reveal that she does not do so good with words but that she sees in pictures and has a better way of revealing or speaking through pictures. I think the biggest thing that works for her to make her thesis effective is the fact that she makes jokes and puts comical reliefs in right off the bat. People respond a lot better to humor and she gets you hooked.

Thesis- In our everyday lives the one thing we are absolutely certain about is our identity, we do not have to think twice on who we are, we know what gender

group, race/religion, and what community we belong to which makes up our identity.

ClassMate 3:

Out of all of the Ted videos, I enjoyed and related most to Alix Generous' "How I Learned to Communicate My Inner Life with Asperger's". I thought that Generous relayed her story in a humorous and relatable manner; even if Autism Spectrum Disorder is not something that affects one's life. Her thesis that persons with ASD lead a colorful inner life that sometimes is difficult to communicate in their outer lives, yet is able to be overcome, is well presented with personal stories of her struggles and triumphs, as well as examples of others that have overcome what some might see as shortcomings.

While I personally do not struggle with ASD, I do struggle with ADHD. Having something that is an uncontrollable part of my personality affecting my daily life can sometimes make it difficult for others to understand me or to relate to others and how they function versus how I function. I am incredibly lucky to have a patient, understanding partner that never makes me feel like I am less of a person for struggling to do things that others find simple. I have found there are some techniques I can employ in order to deal with my symptoms, but sometimes I still fall short and do not accomplish what I have set out to do.

At first, I was thinking about making my identity narrative about veganism and how practicing a compassionate lifestyle can help to develop more empathy for animals and humans alike, but Generous' talk has me wanting to go in a new direction. After being inspired by this video and contemplating the different facets of my identity that shape who I am, I am wanting to focus my identity narrative on my ADHD and the techniques I have found that help me to function and overcome my disorder. My thesis, in that case, would be, that people suffering from disorders, such as ADHD, can learn to live with and overcome their disorder with the correct tools and support. I plan to use my own experiences with ADHD to support my thesis.