## Discussion questions for refugee background

## primary and secondary students

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| Video resource *‘Refugee background young people talk about aspirations and educational success’* The video depicts five young adults of refugee-background sharing their experiences navigating education, cultural identity and parental aspirations as they build on their academic success, pursue their own aspirations and make the most of their opportunities for a better future.<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=5bZR7UDWVk8&list=PLuKE0ROYHJPncPSghu4irQR3xQr-JorEJ&index=1> |

Discussion questions for educators to facilitate with primary and secondary students of refugee background

* reflection
* conversation

Educators are welcome to adapt the questions to suit individual contexts.

1. How did you feel watching this clip?
2. Do you have anything in common with the five young people in this clip? Please share about your own background.
3. What is an experience from your schooling that is similar and what is an experience that is different from the young people in the video?
4. To what extent have your parents talked about your family refugee journey and reasons for settling in Australia?
5. Freshta says; ‘We have to do well, that’s our purpose in life’. Why do you think Freshta says this? How do you feel about what Freshta says?
6. Jenny says ‘It’s an asset being from a refugee-background and speaking more than one language’. What are your thoughts about this? How do you feel about your language abilities and being able to speak more than one language?
7. Freshta says that it took her some time to accept ‘all parts of herself’. Why do you think she felt like this? How would you describe your own home cultural identity and sense of belonging within the wider community?
8. Simion describes himself as ‘cosmopolitan’; What do you think Simion means by ‘cosmopolitan’? In what ways do you think about yourself as cosmopolitan?
9. Simion talks about his parents wanting the children to do better than they did and to pursue their dreams. Jenny talks about discussing her own aspirations with her parents. What kinds of discussions do you have discussions with your parents about their aspirations for you? Does this match with your own aspirations for your future? What are your aspirations for your future?
10. Raghad talks about her father supporting her ‘no matter what’ even though he doesn’t know about what and how she is learning at school. What - do your parents know about how you are going at school and what you are learning? How do they gain this information?
11. Sonia says that she just wanted to be an educated girl. Why do you think gender-equity is an important issue in education?
12. The young people talked about people who support them: teachers, family, mother, sister, role models in ‘higher places’. Who inspires you to achieve? Who are the people that you can confide in to support you in education?
13. In ‘advice to their younger selves’ the young people mentions being less shy, asking more questions, reading more, embracing change and being open-minded, playing more sport. What pieces of advice resonated with you? Why?
14. The young people spoke about being proud of yourself – not trying to impress others just to fit in. What are your thoughts in relation to yourself?
15. Freshta says the world is bigger than you think it is and the possibilities are endless. What are possibilities for you?
16. What is something you feel inspired to apply in your own education now?

Citation:





