



choosing a career

Resource

Work Voices #2

Esther Amuyunzu - Medical Student

It is helpful to view one segment at a time

Context

Esther Amuyunzu is from Kenya and is in her second year as a medical student at UCSF in San Francisco. She describes how her mother, who was a nurse, inspired her interest in the medical field.

Esther explains the importance for students to have a clear vision and a plan once they enter community college, informed by an understanding of what will be involved in the medical training and the stepping stones along the way. It takes four years at undergraduate level and four years at medical school to become an MD – a medical doctor. The medical school training involves two years in a classroom setting and a third and fourth year working with patients using the knowledge gained in class to become an MD, followed by a three year residency. Further training is required to specialize in a particular area.

Esther describes what this journey takes in terms of commitment to learn for a long time, as well as the confidence to persevere and keep going. She also describes the enjoyment she drives from helping people.

Preview activities/Introductory questions

Warm up questions

In your country was it easy to become a doctor?

How was health care provided in your community?

What kinds of doctors have you visited?

Vocabulary

Beginning level

Patients, noble, medical, interested in, decisions, application, knowledge

Intermediate level

Autonomy, major/minor, undergraduate, biological science, vision, pediatrics, surgery residency, rewarding

Focus questions

- What is involved in the medical training?
- How long does it take?

- What is a residency?
- What impression do you get about Esther as a person?
- What qualities does she identify as important to be successful in the medical training?
- What qualities are important for the job itself?

Discuss responses.

Post viewing

Research

a Training courses

- Find training programs in your area that would prepare you to train as a doctor.

b Job opportunities

- Investigate the range of specialisms you can pursue after training as a doctor.
- Explore the additional training required for each specialism e.g. pediatrics.

Summarize findings for a and b in two paragraphs to share with the class

Reflection

- Do you have a goal?
- Would it take a long time to achieve?
- How would you stay motivated?
- What are the challenges or rewards?

Write a short reflection paragraph in response to these questions

Contact assignment

Interview someone who is working as a doctor **OR** someone who works in the health field in a job that interests you.

Record the interview

Post it to your class blog – if there is one.

Further resources

Health Education Resources for ESL Educators www.kqed.org/healtheducation

WORK VOICES TRANSCRIPT