

Optional Video #3: "Homeless to Harvard" Extended Version

(suggested time: 35 minutes)

The purpose of this video is to show that even when we come from backgrounds of intense struggle, we can always make choices that will bring success in our lives. "Homeless to Harvard" gives the story of Liz Murray, who found herself living on the streets at 15 after her mentally ill, drug-addicted parents could not keep the family together. Not having much of an education, she gets to a point in her life where she decides to give education her all, and she makes determined choices for a life of success.

Introduce the video by giving a brief biography of Liz Murray. Liz Murray grew up knowing no other income but welfare, as she lived with her mentally ill and drug-addicted parents. At age 15, she found herself living on the streets. This is the story of the choices she made in order to seek success for her future.

Note to teacher: The video, "Homeless to Harvard," is 90 minutes long. This extended version cuts the film into 32 minutes of specific clips of her story in order to spark classroom discussion. Either show the clips from YouTube or buy the DVD to show sections of the film (instructions for both below). If you choose to buy the DVD, you can order it online at www.mylifeline.com.

"Homeless to Harvard" DVD Instructions:

- Begin at Chapter 1, Fast-forward to 1:15
 - Show 1:15 - 6:50 (5.5 minutes)
 - Tell the students that the parts skipped over in the story show Liz's success in school, even though she hadn't been there in months. She also finds out that her mother contracted HIV AIDS. She is soon taken from her home and put in a group home, where she had a negative experience. Then she goes back to her grandpa's home and visits with her mom. When she starts attending school again, she meets her best friend, Chris. Liz often takes care of her mom. While living with her grandpa, he hit her so she leaves, becomes homeless, and stops going to school. She hangs with her friends, sleeps on their couches, and sleeps on the subway.
- Skip to Chapter 9, Fast-forward to 41:24
 - Show 41:24 - 44:06 (3 minutes)
 - Tell the students that Liz finds out that her mom dies, and goes to meet her grandpa and sister to bury her. Her friends come with to support her.
- Skip to Chapter 10, Fast-forward to 46:17
 - Show 46:17 - 58:49 (12.5 minutes)
 - Tell the students that the parts skipped over show Liz getting her dad to give the school an address so the school wouldn't know she is homeless. She also finds out that her dad has AIDS like her mom did.
- Skip to Chapter 14, Fast-forward to 1:05:39
 - Show 1:05:39 - 1:13:38 (8 minutes)
- Skip to Chapter 16, Fast-forward to 1:18:53

- Show 1:18:53 – 1:19:32 (*40 seconds*)
- Tell students that the parts skipped over in the story show her applying for a scholarship from the New York Times to go to Harvard. She gets it and gives her acceptance speech.
- Skip to Chapter 17, Fast-forward to 1:23:17
 - Show 1:23:17 - 1:25:28 (*2 minutes*)

YouTube Instructions:

Go to YouTube and search for the title, "Homeless to Harvard part 1." The video on YouTube is split up into 9 parts. So the times will be separated into these 9 parts. Bookmark Parts 1 and Parts 5 through 9 so that each clip is ready to show.

- **Show Part 1**, 1:05 to 6:40, as an introduction to Liz Murray's life. (*Total 5.5 minutes*)
 - Tell the students that we are skipping over Parts 2-4, and give a brief summary of each part:
 - Part 2 shows Liz doing well on a test in school, even though she hadn't been there in months, because she read the encyclopedia. She also finds out that her mother contracted AIDS.
 - Part 3 is when she's taken from her home and put in a group home, where she had a negative experience (*till 3:40*). Then she goes back to her grandpa's home and visits with her mom. When she starts attending school again, she meets her best friend, Chris.
 - Part 4 shows Liz taking care of her mom. It also shows her grandpa hitting her so she leaves, becomes homeless and stops going to school. She hangs with her friends, sleeps on their couches, and sleeps on the subway.
- **Show Part 5**, 1:23 to 3:59, where she takes care of her mom while she's still homeless. (*Total 2.5 minutes*)
 - Then tell the students that Liz finds out that her mom dies, and goes to meet her grandpa and sister to bury her. Her friends come with to support her.
- **Show Part 5**, 6:04 to Part 6, 8:28 (*Total 12.5 minutes*)
 - Tell the students that the rest of Part 6 and the beginning of Part 7 (0 to 5:04) show Liz getting her dad to give the school an address so the school wouldn't know she is homeless. She also finds out that her dad has AIDS like her mom did.
- **Show Part 7**, 7:17 to the end and then Part 8, 0 to 5:11, which shows Liz working hard in school. She runs into her best friend, Chris, and tries to help her get into school. This shows the difference in mind-sets of the two girls. Liz also gets to go on a trip to Harvard with her school. (*Total 8 minutes*)
 - Tell students that the rest of Part 8 and the beginning of Part 9 shows her applying for a scholarship from the New York Times to go to Harvard and getting it so that she can go to college.
- **Show Part 9**, 0:36 to 1:13, then 4:50 to 6:55, which shows Liz's acceptance of the New York Times scholarship and starting at Harvard. (*Total 2.5 minutes*)