

## Dream School Foundation Students Challenge the "Danger of a single story"

In a twenty-minute TED TALK video, *The Danger of A Single Story*, the novelist, Chimamanda Adichie describes the powerful impression the multitude of British stories made on her as a young girl growing up in Nigeria. She argues that inherent in the power of stories, is a danger—the danger of only knowing one story about a group. "The single story creates stereotypes, and the problem with stereotypes is not that they are untrue, but that they are incomplete. They make one story become the only story."

[https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda\\_ngozi\\_adichie\\_the\\_danger\\_of\\_a\\_single\\_story#t-1104598](https://www.ted.com/talks/chimamanda_ngozi_adichie_the_danger_of_a_single_story#t-1104598)

**ASSIGNMENT:** DSF students were asked to watch Chimamanda Adichie's TED talk and respond to the question, *"We have learned from Adichie the danger of a single story about a people or a place. In a 300-word essay share the story you want the world to know about Nigeria"*?

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### **SOME EXCERPTS of their essays**

*"When people talk about African stereotypes, the bulk of it generally points to Nigeria. Nigeria might be one of the most popular countries and richest in Africa but most of the stereotypes that people hold over Nigerians only give a false impression about them."* **Isah**

*"Nigeria is a great country, so people carries image that are false. Stereotypes are jokes, but more often ridiculous, and every country in the world is battling with stereotypes because they rob people of their individual, oftentimes reducing their humanity."* **Raphael**

### **Attractions**

*"Nigeria is a country located on the western of Africa, it's a beautiful country brimmed with many inspiring natural attraction."* **Omalara**

*"Nigeria has 4 international airports, over 8 domestic airports an 8 seaports. Nigeria has different tourist attractions located in the different states of the country like waterfalls, hills, warm springs, beaches, lakes and rocks. The country has a lot of green natures and different herbs. Nigeria in involved in exporting and importing. Her major source of revenue is on agricultural product oil. Nigeria is highly blessed with different natural resources but few lack proper maintenance."* **Chiboy**

### Tribalism

*"One of the ways in which tribalism amongst the tribes has been best tackled is through inter- state marriages. Modern day Nigerians now feel free to marry from other tribes, which was not so aforetime. My cousin for example is getting married to a beautiful Yoruba lady by October this year. That is an indication that these stereotypes are dying down and also a pointer that our differences are very infinitesimal."* **Israel**

### Corruption

*"Corruption has permeated every fabric of the Nigerian nation existence that we now see it as part of the system. It is so systemically entrenched that we could no longer tell what is corruption. Nigeria is a big country where more than millions of people stay and also engage themselves into one or two businesses to survive. Many of these people engage themselves into import and export of goods from one place to another, while some few peoples engage themselves into some dirty jobs (Examples) Armed robbery, carjacking, kidnapping. Is it their fault? No, we find out that most of this people who are into all this dirty jobs are into it because they couldn't feed their families and the only thing is to get into others people sweat and spoil it. Many people hustle in Nigeria just to stand out with others and also to make sure their children are well trained (My mother is also a good example , she work very hard to make sure we stand out good among others children) Same to others women's outside that hustle day and night to be well known in the society."* **Omalara**

### Poverty

*"I would say that, it is not about the nation's annual revenue that makes us rich. It's rather our hard work, talents, handiworks and the fact that most Nigerians do not even depend on the government or the so called "national cake". Although what we get in returns does not measure up to the labor we put into our work, still yet, we at least have what to eat and wear, so we aren't poor! The truth is Nigeria is a very productive nation, filled with diligent citizens who are always striving to be in the forefront. The more reason we are called the "giant of Africa".* **Israel**

### Illiteracy

*"There is also the misconception, that Nigerians are uneducated and incapable of speaking what one may call "good English". But one may ask about the numerous, talented and proficient professionals, the nation has produced and boast of for the past decades. Do they know about our professional doctors, activists, nationalists,*

advocates, professors, business experts, to mention but a few? Do they know about Prof. Wole Soyinka?" **Israel**

### Diligence

*"Nigerians are a very hardworking people. We don't wait for the government to do it for us. You look around and see the women going up and down tirelessly, hawking, trading, farming etc.*

*My mother, just like any other Nigerian woman, wakes up by 4am and returns by 6pm from the market, every blessed day. She doesn't depend on anyone for assistance. She also taught me to do same. I hawked for my mom all through my junior secondary. I learnt to work and pay for most of the things I needed in the junior and senior secondary schools. A skill I'm glad I acquired as it had made me strong and somehow independent."* **Israel**

*"Nigerians are regarded as hardworking people who are eager to go the extra mile to attain success. It is important to note that my mum is one the hardworking woman who works hard for the purpose of fending for herself and her family."* **Ojo**

### Unsafe

*"It is generally believed that Africa is a place where bad incidents happen, so regarded as being unsafe for nationals and expatriates to live, to conduct business, to visit and to travel in. Specifically, Nigeria is portrayed with this myth due to the news of Boko-Haram insurgency and terrorism, insecurity, and violent crime, most especially at the northern part of Nigeria. It is important to note that Nigeria comprises 36 states and it is untrue that all the states that are full of trouble and unsafe to live as this portrays it. Enugu, Calabar, Ibadan, Abuja, Ilorin, Uyo and the like are some of the safest cities in Nigeria."* **Ojo**

### Education

*"Nigerians embrace education just like any other country in world. Parents value education to the extent that they rather go without food in their stomach, than have their children not going to school. Additionally, Nigeria has several renown universities and boasts of having one of the best education systems in the world. Nigerians are not uneducated whereas we have noble people like, Bishop Samuel Ajayi Crowther. He was the man who translated bible into Yoruba language. Grace Alele Williams was a first-class academician and the first Nigeria women to obtain a PhD in mathematics. The fact that someone met a single uneducated person does not mean all Nigerian are uneducated."* **Isah**