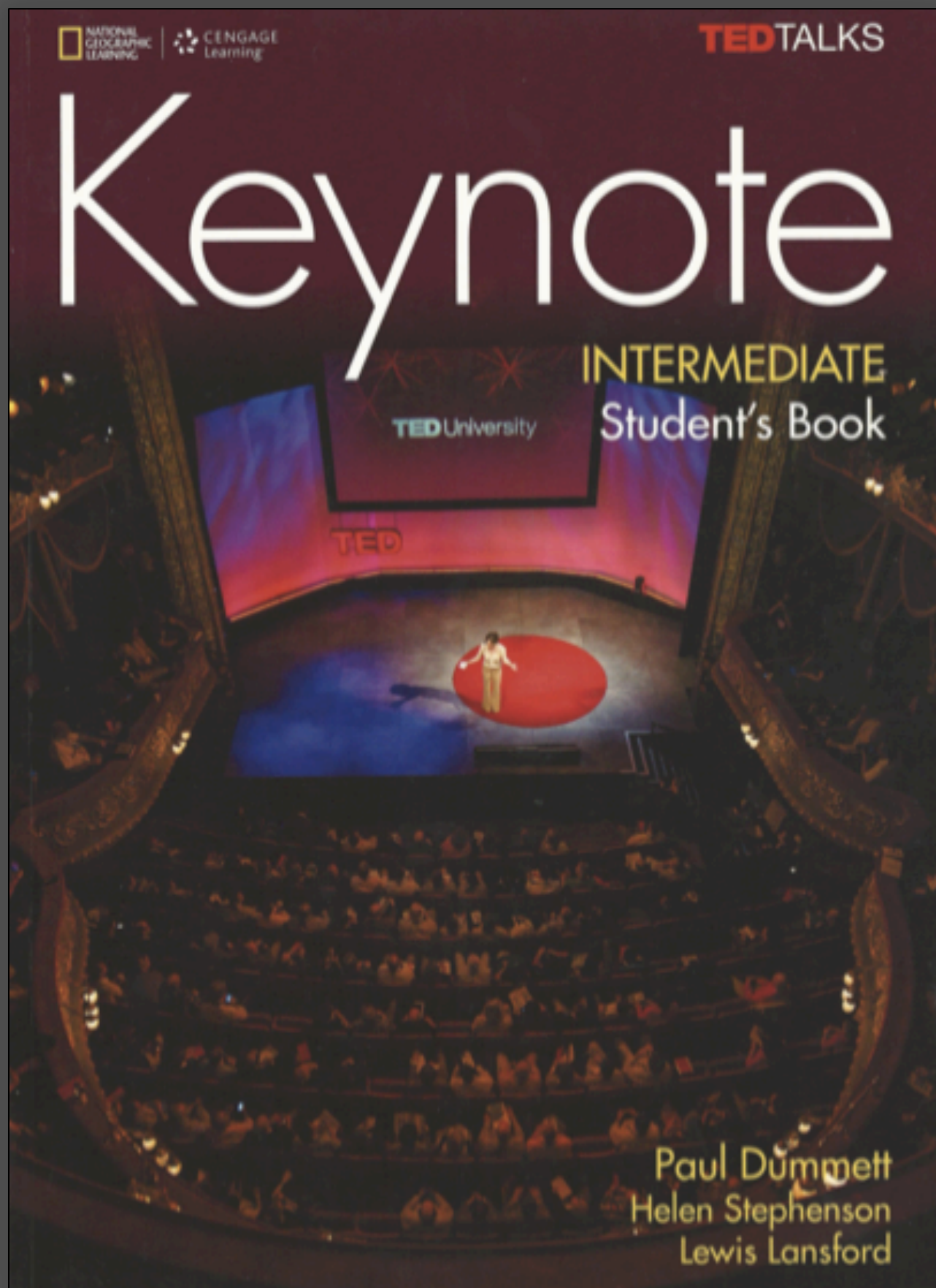


Material Evaluation and Adaptation Project:

Addressing Gender &
Social Justice Issues

Jeanne Bufalino



TED

1.1 A life lesson from a volunteer firefighter

TED TALKS

1 ▶ **1.1** Mark Bezos tells a story about a time he went to help at a fire. Watch the TED Talk. Choose the lesson (a–c) that you think Mark Bezos wants us to learn.

- a** We should always help our friends and family first.
- b** Small acts of kindness are as important as big ones.
- c** First be successful in your job and then go out and help others.

2 Work in pairs. What example did Mark Bezos give to illustrate this lesson? Discuss with your partner.

3 ▶ **1.1** Watch the first part (0.00–1.06) of the talk again. Choose the correct option to make true sentences.

- 1** Mark Bezos is a *professional* / *volunteer* firefighter in his town.
- 2** At his first fire he was the *first* / *second* volunteer to arrive.
- 3** When Mark Bezos found the captain, he was speaking to *another volunteer* / *the homeowner*.
- 4** It was the middle of the *day* / *night* and it was raining.

10 Read this comment* about the TED Talk. Then discuss the questions.

- 1 What does the viewer like about the way Mark Bezos delivered his message?
- 2 Do you agree with her?

Viewers' comments

R **Rachel** – I like this talk – a short, everyday story with a simple lesson. It was a small gift from Mark Bezos which could make a big difference in many people's lives.



*The comment was created for this activity.

4 ▶ **1.1** Read the sentences. Then watch the second part (1.06–2.46) of the talk again. Complete the sentences with one word per space.

- 1 The captain asked the other volunteer to rescue a _____ from inside the house.
- 2 Mark Bezos felt _____ that the other volunteer could tell people he saved a living animal.
- 3 The captain asked Mark Bezos to go into the house and _____ back some shoes.
- 4 He carried the shoes back downstairs and gave them to the _____.
- 5 A few weeks later, the homeowner sent a letter thanking the fire department, in particular for saving her _____.

5 ▶ **1.1** Watch the third part (2.46 to the end) of the talk again. Answer the questions.

- 1 What has Mark Bezos learned about the acts of kindness and generosity that he sees?
- 2 Mark Bezos's two-word message for his audience is 'Don't _____.' What does he mean by this?
- 3 What is one example of the kind of help we can give to others?
- 6 Work in pairs. Discuss other ways that people can help their communities. What could *you* do?

VOCABULARY IN CONTEXT

7 ▶ **1.2** Watch the clips from the TED Talk. Choose the correct meaning of the words.

8 Work in pairs. Complete the sentences in your own words.

- 1 There's a pretty good chance that next year I will ...
- 2 I'm pretty much done ... (-ing) ...
- 3 The three things that matter most to me are ...

CRITICAL THINKING How a message is delivered

9 Work in pairs. Read the conclusion or 'message' of Mark Bezos's talk. How did he get this message across? Choose the best answer (a–c).

'Don't wait until you make your first million to make a difference in somebody's life. If you have something to give, give it now.'

- a with different examples
- b with visuals / pictures
- c with a simple story

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Viewers' comments

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PRESENTATION SKILLS Being authentic

- 11 Work in pairs. What kind of person do you think an audience most likes to see giving a presentation: a confident person, a knowledgeable person, a funny person, a sincere person? Of these qualities, which is most appealing to you, and why?
- 12 Look at the Presentation tips box. What kind of person does it suggest people like to listen to?

TIPS

When you give a talk, it's important to be yourself and for your personality to come through. Follow these steps:

- 1 Write your talk yourself. Use words and expressions that you would normally use so that your words convey your personality.
- 2 Speak from the heart. Talk about things that you know about and believe in.
- 3 Don't worry if you are nervous. An audience sometimes warms more to someone who is nervous than someone who is full of confidence. They want you to succeed.
- 4 Relax your body. Try to move and gesture as you normally do.

13 ▶ **1.3** Watch the clip from the TED Talk. Then answer the questions.

- 1 Does the audience 'warm' to Mark Bezos? How can you tell?
- 2 Which points (1–4) from the Presentation tips box do you think Mark Bezos follows in his talk?

14 You are going to give a two-minute mini-presentation. Make some brief notes to present what you do for a living or what you are studying. Explain some surprising things about your job or studies – what people may not know about it – and/or the aspects of your job or studies that you like or dislike.

15 Work in pairs. Give your presentation. Use the advice from the Presentation tips box and be yourself!



1.1

How diversity in Fire and Rescue will build a safer society

SCAN ME



TED TALKS

- 1 1.1 Bronnie Mackintosh is a firefighter in Australia. Watch the TED Talk. Choose the lesson (a-c) that you think Bronnie Mackintosh wants us to learn.
 - a. Women and men fight fires equally.
 - b. A diverse Fire and Rescue workforce serves the community better.
 - c. Diversity in Fire and Rescue has created conflicts on the workforce.
- 2 Work in pairs. What examples did Bronnie Mackintosh give to illustrate this lesson? Discuss with your partner.
3. 1.1 Watch the first part (0:15-1:30) of the talk again. Choose the correct option to make true sentences.
 - a. Bronnie Mackintosh is a *professional/ volunteer* firefighter in her town.
 - b. There should be a range of firefighters because of the *work/ languages spoken*.
 - c. 95% of urban firefighters in Australia are white *women/ men*.
 - d. A homogeneous workplace is *useful/ limiting* in the workforce.

burly /'bɜːrli/ **N AM ENG**
 burly /'bɜːli/ **BR ENG**

utmost /'ʌtmʊst/ **N AM ENG**
 utmost /'ʌtməʊst/ **BR ENG**



10 Read a few viewer comments and replies about the TEDx Talk on YouTube. Then discuss the questions.

- 1. What views are expressed about women and diversity in firefighting?
- 2. Do you agree with them?
- 3. How would you respond to a comment you disagree with?



Example viewer’s comments (Oct 5, 2019)

Jon Snow 8 months ago

I don't think anyone thinks firefighters should just be men. If someone's house is burning and the fire truck shows up and it has a female in charge, they aren't going to tell her to leave and that they will wait for a man to put the fire out. People would be upset if a woman is put in a position just because she is a woman and when something happens she isn't able to respond in the necessary way and results in unnecessary loss of property or life.

Read more

5

REPLY

[Hide replies](#)

John Cocca 1 month ago

There are PLENTY of people who think fire fighters should just be men. The sane ones, who understand Firefighting. There are no women that can do the Line Division fire fighter job as well as men. Anywhere. Just like there are no women that can play in the NFL, NBA, NHL, and the best women in Combat Sports cannot compete with any any ANY professional male Pro competitor. In an effort to be kind and accepting, falsehoods are instituted.

1

REPLY

Faz Naz 10 months ago

To be honest as a middle eastern who really wants to be apart of the fire service, I just don't see how I would ever get in. Only 2% from ethnically diverse backgrounds Geez and how many of the 2% are Middle Eastern? or Muslim insert dramatic melody here ?

3

REPLY

[Hide replies](#)

Luke Sky 9 months ago

Faz Naz: If you have what it takes, go for it. Qualified individuals wanted. If you are a follower of Islam, go to an Islamic country and apply. There is no place for Islam in the west.

1

REPLY

Hairy DairyMan 8 months ago

Start by volunteering. The Victorian CFA doesn't care about where your from or what you identify as. Good English is about the only barrier to a healthy capable person

REPLY

priecture 9 months ago (edited)

By the left's own ridiculous standards, gender and skin color doesn't matter: we're all the same. If that is true than how can diversity "improve" anything? And why is diversity only ever pushed on anything that mostly interests men, or anywhere a noticeable number of whites reside? Progressives push superficial diversity for selfish, political purposes. Real diversity is diversity of Thought which they go out of their way to tear down and censor.

6

REPLY

[Hide replies](#)

PatriotForThePlanet 8 months ago

Not accurate. There is a push to get more men in fields like elementary teaching and nursing.

REPLY