



Meet The Graduate – Daniel Henderson

Video Transcript

This transcript is of Edition #06 – How do I take responsibility for my own performance?

Music to start		
Question 1:		[Visual] Introduce yourself and tell us where you work
Daniel:	00:09	Hello, my name is Daniel Henderson. I work in the northern region as a CRT and before that I was in the army for 34 years and I transitioned from the army, into teaching or what the university for five years. Once I completed my masters, I then went out and started doing CRT work as a brand-new graduate, I wanted to gain some experience in different schools so I could better adapt to the job.
Question 2:		[Visual] How did your first day go?
Daniel:	00:42	On my first day at a CRT, it was a huge experience. I went in there full of enthusiasm and wanted to please and met the other three ages and I was excited about my first day. The first thing I noticed was that everything was a rush. You didn't have really a lot of time to think about what you were doing and it took me off guard a bit so, in preparation I didn't really have a lot of preparation initially, and I just went into the classroom and things didn't go as well as what I expected. And I'll put that down to the fact that I was lacking in experience in the classroom, even though I'd had placement while I was at university, I don't think it's set me up that world as a CRT because on placement you're under supervision. When you go in as a CRT, you're on your own and one of the downsides is you don't know the students and if you don't know the students, that's one of the principles should learn at university, to get to

know the students as quickly as you can. And that's what I tried to do, but I think the students knew that I was a first out CRT, straight out of university and they didn't want to play the game, or they played their own game. And it made it difficult because I didn't have enough experience with strategies in the classroom, the handle, the situation. So at the end of the day I walked out, i was exhausted, fatigued but since then I've gained more knowledge,

Question 3:

[Visual] What were your expectations about starting and what was different?

Daniel:

[02:25](#)

My expectations, was I was going to get, you know a class that was prepared to work with me, that was my expectation or i thought the students were going to want to be there, are going to want to learn. I got a rude awakening. You know, I found that I've got to be different in the classroom to what I was in the military where I had a audience. That did as they were told basically and followed a structure that was disclosed and had lots of discipline in the environment. And it made it easy for me as an instructor in the military because I knew the students were there for a purpose. They did want to learn and they knew they were going to get some to get out of it at the end when I went into the classroom, even though I had the learning outcomes up there on the board and I felt comfortable in the environment, the students were different. They didn't always want to be there. They didn't want to do the learning. They weren't engaged at times. So, it made it difficult to teach. I've learned since then that you've got to learn more about classroom behaviour, learn more about the students as quickly as you can and know ways to get the learning started and get them engaged, and if you can get them engaged, then the lesson will flow.

Question 4:

[Visual] What has been the best thing in school so far?

Daniel:

[04:05](#)

I think the best thing has been working with other teachers, especially coming out as a graduate and a feeling as though you may be a little inadequate in the classroom, but when you sit down and talk to teachers and take the time, especially after work, when the classes are finished, you sit there with any teachers that are around and you ask them questions about your role and talk about your day, get some feedback from them and some support from them. And I think all the schools

that I've been to, I've had teachers actually say, try this, do that. And they give you a little bit of advice in regard to all different facets of teaching. And I think the support staff too, they've been great. But occasionally what I have really enjoyed is when you have that light bulb moment that they talk about at university and you see a student that says, yeah I get this, this is what I want to do. And those are the exciting times, is when you've got students that really are engaged to want to succeed. I think they're just a couple of the, so far that I've experienced.

Question 5:

[Visual] What is the best thing that has happened in the classroom?

Daniel:

[05:17](#)

I think one of the best things, especially as a Health, PE teacher, Outdoor Ed and Environmental studies is having the students actually get involved. I am not a master of all sports. I do have the knowledge to this plate and then teach in different sports. But when you have a student who is an athlete in the sport and he wants to participate, he wants to teach as well. Those are great moments because then when you have a leader in the, in the student body, then you have the other students react to that. It's a positive outcome. So that's probably one of the things that I've enjoyed so far is the student support coming back to me in a sporting environment also a health environment.

Question 6:

[Visual] What has been a challenge and how did you overcome it?

Daniel:

[06:12](#)

Well, one of the challenges that I was stuck with, and that stands out early in my CRT career has been classroom management, but I went home one day and I was wrecked basically from the day and I was sat down with one or more sons who is recently out of secondary school and he said to me, he said, dad, let's have a discussion about what you should do based on my knowledge. And I was enlightened by that, my son was showing interest in what I do. We sat and talked for about half an hour and he gave me some ideas from a student's perspective on how to cope with certain situations in the classroom. And I thought they were great ideas. I was a bit sort of taken a back that I didn't have that knowledge, but I'm not a student, I'm a teacher. So, I took that on board and I used it the very next day in the classroom and I got some positive

outcomes. So, I thanked my son for the knowledge he gave me as a student to a teacher.

Question 7:

[Visual] If you could go back in time, what would you tell your first day self?

Daniel:

[07:28](#)

I think I'd tell myself to take a page out of one of my previous employment books, and that is go and do your research, go and investigate what it is to be a teacher. Go Talk to other teachers. Don't just talk to your lecturers at university, alright, talk to teachers that are in the workplace, they're doing the job. Speak to them, get a good grasp of what you're about to do and what's you're preparing to do because it's all part of the journey. Nobody goes on a holiday without doing their research first, nobody takes on a new job without doing their research first. If it's something you're passionate about, learn as much as you can while you're at university, so when you get out there as a brand-new graduate, you're prepared.

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