

Before I start, I want to thank everyone for coming out today and letting me speak about my experiences. I have dyslexia and I was diagnosed in Grade.12. So I grew up believing I was stupid. Elementary and high school was a struggle for an undiagnosed dyslexic kid. Some peers bullied me and some teachers were frustrated with my work. Many other dyslexic people face these obstacles in school. No one deserves to believe they're stupid from five years old till 17. No parent or teacher deserves the struggle of being unable to help a kid with their homework. No one deserves to be ignored by a special education teacher who looks at your good grades and says "you're fine" when over the past two weeks you work non-stop on an essay that gets you a C-. My teachers, my parents and I went through these experiences. And I'm one of the few lucky to have a family that could even afford the \$3,000 diagnosis. I've rewrote the end of this speech countless times. For future generations, I want Dyslexic kids to thrive! Thank you for listening.