

About Face

Rethink what you think.

Watch the video, “I am not a product of my environment,” featuring shipbuilder John Witherspoon.

Questions for Discussion on the Video and Inclusion and Diversity:

1. How can you relate to John’s experiences growing up?

2. What stands out about his story?

3. Why do you believe that our environment shapes who we are? Why not?

4. Do you disagree with any of his thoughts on why inclusion and diversity is important? Why?



“Growing up in downtown Newport News, I heard all the labels. ‘He stays in the hood.’ ‘He’s never going to be anybody.’ ‘He’s probably going to try to rob somebody.’ We might not have the best of things. Our situation may not be the best. But I can rise above. I can be better. I can show someone I am not what you think. The more you get to know a person, you’ll see that stereotypes start disappearing because everybody is different.”

John Witherspoon



**Inclusion +
Diversity**