

KELVIN DOE MAKES RADIO STATION OUT OF TRASH

COMMON CORE STATE STANDARDS

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9.1: RH.6-8.5



HERE'S KELVIN'S STORY!

Most kids rather **carelessly** throw lots of stuff in the trash. Fifteen year-old Kelvin Doe of Sierra Leone found stuff in the trash and built a radio¹ station. The station **broadcasts** news and music and now Kelvin is known as DJ Focus. He has **engaged** the help of classmates (average age 12) to report the news every day in his community.

In order to give the youth of his village a voice, he thought they needed a radio station. For that, he would need a **transmitter**. He went to work figuring out how to make one. Kelvin's amazing ability to make a transmitter out of junk caught the attention of a fellow compatriot, David Sengeh², a graduate student at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in the United States. Sengeh was so impressed that he arranged for Kelvin to come to his famous university for three weeks. Sengeh tapped into the MIT International Developers **Initiative**, which paid for Kevin's airfare to the US.

Kelvin, who had never previously been further than ten miles from home, made history³ by becoming the youngest person ever to come to MIT on that program.

Kelvin makes what he needs. His community, like one and a half billion other people around the world, needs electricity. Kelvin's next invention is to be a **wind turbine**.

Sengeh made a video of what Kelvin has created. The video also showed him coming to MIT. As a result of that video, several colleges have offered Kelvin a full scholarship to come back to get a university education.

VOCABULARY

Carelessly - not paying attention to what one does

Broadcast - to speak, to transmit, to cast over an area

Engaged - involved

Transmitter - a device for sending electromagnetic waves as used for broadcasting.

Initiative - an act or step.

Wind turbine - a machine for producing power in which a wheel fitted with vanes is made to revolve by a fast-moving flow of air

References

¹ <http://techmoran.com/meet-dj-focus-aka-kevin-doeself-trained-radio-engineer15-from-sierra-leone/>

² <http://newsoffice.mit.edu/2012/graduate-student-david-sengeh-gives-back-to-sierra-leone-1218>

³ <http://www.kachwanya.com/self-taught-kevin-doe-from-sierra-leone-wows-m-i-t/#sthash.ZFrHgeRc.dpbs>

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Quiz

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RI.9-10.1 Cite strong and thorough textual evidence to support analysis of what the text says explicitly as well as inferences drawn from the text (*i.e. When reading the story, what information can you find that provides the reason behind Kelvin's invitation to MIT?*)

1. Explain why Kelvin was invited to MIT.
- David Sengeh invited Kelvin to MIT so that Kelvin could find a way to use the trash that he found in Sierra Leone and turn it into a transistor for his radio.
 - The MIT International Developers Initiative found out about DJ Focus. They wanted Kelvin to research wind power at MIT with help from David Sengeh.
 - Kelvin made a radio from trash in his home of Sierra Leone. David Sengeh, a student at MIT liked Kelvin's work. He asked Kelvin to visit MIT and study there.
 - People who listened to DJ Focus got in touch with David Sengeh and asked for Kelvin to be invited to the MIT program.

CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.RH.6-8.5 Describe how a text presents information (*e.g. sequentially, comparatively, and causally.*) (*i.e. Describe what information is in the story that gives you more information to make your selection.*)

2. Which one of these details is not important to include in the last paragraph of the text?
- Kelvin Doe is from the country of Sierra Leone. He does not have a way to use advanced radio technology. Kelvin used trash to build his own radio station. He calls himself DJ Focus.
 - Kelvin is only fifteen years old. When he came to the US to visit MIT he became the youngest person invited into their International Developers Initiative.
 - Before meeting Kelvin, David Sengeh did not know that anyone could make a radio transmitter from garbage. Kelvin is responsible for teaching his peers about radio technology.