

How to WIDEN Your Perspective in Campus Life

The famous American writer and politician known as Benjamin Franklin said that *Happiness is when what you think, what you say and what you do are in harmony*. To be happy, we should exercise our *mental capacity* in proper thinking, guard our *speech* through the use of proper *words*, and control our *actions* and do proper and right deeds.

One way of finding fulfilment in our thoughts, speech and actions is to WIDEN our perspective or outlook in life. How can you widen your perspective in campus life?

W Stands for *work*. In campus life, you must learn to work hard. “*All hard work pays*”. But it is not just about working hard. You should work hard intelligently; you must learn to work smart. The person carrying stones on their shoulder works hard, but the one using a wheelbarrow works smart. The student reading all books in the library or on the internet works hard, but the one who reads recommended books and references works smart.

I Stands for *Integrity*. You must be a person of integrity. You should uphold honesty and truthfulness in both academic and daily life. You should be reliable and upright. You must have veracity in all your work. You should learn to do your own assignments and not copy other students’ assignments. You should not cheat in your CATs and examinations. Students who cheat are expelled without mercy.

D Stands for *discipline*. Discipline is the quality of consistently and devotedly

doing the right thing in the right way at the right time in the right place with the right motive. Discipline is about having consistent self-control.

E Stands for *excellence*. Whatever you do, do it well. Whatever you do, do it with diligence and merit. Aim for distinction. Be careful and meticulous. When you do your best, what happens will be for the best. Excellence is about diligence; it is about targeting to do everything well.

N Stands for never giving up. It is about having *persistence*. The person who makes it to the mountain top is the one who perseveres the most. Victory belongs to the most persevering. If you should sometimes lack food, never give up. If you should sometimes run out of money, never give up. If you should sometimes underperform in your academic work, never give up. If your friend lets you down, never give up. In a race, winners never quit and quitters never win. As Winston Churchill once said, *never give up. Never, never, never give up*.

S Stands for *strategy*. In life you need a roadmap; a workable plan; a good strategy.

To be truly happy in the University of Nairobi, you must harmonize what you think *now*, what you say *now* and what you do *now*. WIDEN your perspective by *working smart*, being a man or woman of *integrity*, maintaining *discipline*, aiming for *excellence*, and *never giving up*. And it also helps a great deal to be cautiously strategic.