Score:

Hi everyone. I'm Emily Jones. Thank you for having me here today. As promised, I'm going to talk about how we form first impressions—not only of people, but also of social issues like gender equality, cultural diversity, human rights, and migration. We all form impressions every day. We assume things quickly—sometimes too quickly—based on a brief encounter, a single behavior, or a stereotype. And those first impressions can shape how we treat people and how we understand the world around us. Let's imagine a situation that connects to the issues we've been studying. You're at school, waiting for a community event on *human rights and cultural diversity* to begin. People from different backgrounds, ages, and genders are arriving. As you wait, you notice a young man standing near the entrance. He looks nervous and keeps checking his phone. He speaks with an accent, and you overhear someone whisper, *"He must be new here... probably a migrant."* When an organizer asks for volunteers to help set up chairs, he steps back. You assume he doesn't want to help. From this brief encounter, you form an impression: *"Maybe he's unfriendly or doesn't care about the event."* But what you don't see is the full picture. He may be anxious because he doesn't know anyone. He may be shy in a new cultural environment. He may be learning the language and feels embarrassed to speak in public. Or he may be dealing with trauma from leaving his home country. Now another person walks in: a confident woman who greets everyone, speaks loudly, and gives instructions. She seems friendly and assertive, so you assume she must be a leader or a professional expert. You might even assume she is empowered, successful, and free from limitations. But she might be facing the gender gap, struggling with the wage gap, hitting the glass ceiling, or dealing with misogyny, sexism, or cultural expectations about gender roles. These quick assumptions show how easily bias, prejudice, and cultural stereotypes can shape our impressions. Later, the event finally begins. The organizer introduces the nervous young man as the *keynote speaker*, an activist who works in advocacy for refugees and who builds allyship networks to support newly arrived families. He speaks about equality, diversity, inclusivity, and social justice. And the confident woman? She turns out to be a first-time volunteer attending her very first meeting. Suddenly, your first impressions flip. You realize that a small sample of behavior didn't reflect a person's true traits. You judged one person too quickly because of cultural assumptions and judged another based on social expectations about confidence and leadership. This is why understanding intersectionality, showing empathy, and challenging stereotypes matter. When we rely only on first impressions—especially in areas like gender equality, migration, and human rights—we risk reinforcing inequality rather than breaking it down. Now, let's reflect on How First Impressions Work. One common mistake we make is thinking that a tiny example of someone's behavior tells us everything about them. For example, because the woman at the event seemed confident, you might assume she has no struggles. Because the young man stepped back when asked to help, you assume he is uncooperative. We often think a small behavior reveals a complete personality. And here's another interesting thing: when *we* act negatively, we explain it by the situation. *"I was stressed. I didn't sleep well. My boss yelled at me."* But when someone else acts negatively—especially someone from a group we already have biases about—we blame their personality. We don't look into the situation; we jump to conclusions. This is why awareness, education, advocacy, and solidarity are so important. They help us break down barriers, speak up when something is unfair, and stand up for the rights of others. They also help us open up, question our assumptions, and take a second look before judging people or social issues. In conclusion, first impressions matter. They help us navigate new encounters and make sense of new information. But they can also be misleading—especially when stereotypes, discrimination, or social norms influence how we see others. So whenever we meet someone new—or hear about an issue like gender equality, migration, or cultural diversity—it's important to slow down, reflect, and take a second look. Because equality, fairness, dignity, and human rights require more than a first impression. They require understanding.

1. **T / F**: The speaker explains that a brief encounter can lead people to assume things that reflect bias rather than reality.
2. **T / F**: In the story, people quickly form an impression that the nervous young man is unfriendly because his behavior seems distant and he speaks with an accent.
3. **T / F**: The script states that the confident woman must have equal opportunities because women no longer experience the gender gap or the glass ceiling.
4. **T / F:** The audience wrongly assumes that the nervous young man has fewer positive traits simply because he appears shy and possibly a migrant.
5. **T / F:** The listening emphasizes that intersectionality helps explain how gender, migration status, and cultural identity can combine to affect a person's experiences.
6. **T / F**: According to the speaker, stereotypes about migrants and women in leadership roles are examples of harmful cultural norms and prejudice.
7. **T / F:** The script argues that advocacy and allyship are important tools for challenging unfair first impressions and promoting human rights.
8. **T / F:** The woman at the event is introduced as the keynote speaker because she shows strong representation and feminist empowerment.
9. **T / F:** The young man turns out to be an activist who works on policy and refugee support, showing how first impressions can be misleading.
10. **T / F:** The speaker says that when we act negatively, we often blame social context, but when others act negatively, especially those from marginalized groups, we blame their personality—reinforcing sexism, racism, or other forms of discrimination.

LIVEWORKSHEETS