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Family Album, USA

Episode 9 [“It's Up to You“](#)

Act 3

Mike I had an interview today, too. I had a great interview with Admissions at Columbia University.

Robbie Really? What did they say? Will you get into the school?

Mike Well, they didn't say anything for sure. But I figure that with my grades and with my personality, I'll have no problem.

Robbie Columbia's a terrific school. What are you going to do?

Mike Do? I don't know. I also applied to NYU.

Robbie You sound excited about Columbia. What's your problem, Mike?

Mike Indecision. Indecision. It's not easy, and this is an important decision we have to make. What about you? How was your interview with Michigan?

Robbie The interview was fine.

Mike It's a great college.

Robbie It is. My father would like me to go there. He and my Grandpa both went there.

Mike Great medical school, too.

Robbie I know.

Mike You can follow in your father's footsteps.

Robbie Ah! I'd like to follow in my own footsteps, Mike.

Mike What do you want to study?

Robbie I've been thinking. I think I want to study journalism to be a reporter-a newspaperman.

Mike You do a pretty good job on the Riverdale High School paper.

Robbie And I've been thinking about it a lot lately.

Mike Have you discussed it with your parents?

Robbie No. But I have to.

Mike OK. Let's talk.

Philip Hi, Dad. Everything's fine. I was just waiting for your to get home so we could talk.

Philip Anything special you want to talk about?

Robbie There is, Dad.

Philip I'm listening.

Robbie Well, I know you and Mom have given up a lot to save money for my college tuition.

Philip We want you to go to college, Robbie.

Robbie I know. I do.

Philip But?

Robbie Well, I've Thought a lot about which college, and one of them is Columbia.

Philip Columbia? Why Columbia?

Robbie First, they have an excellent School of Journalism.

Philip They do. And your friends are planning to go to Columbia?
Robbie That's only part of it. It's complicated. I'll try to explain. Mike and I had a hamburger this afternoon, and we talked.

Philip Yes?
Robbie Well, we talked about a lot of thing. He applied to Columbia, and his interview was very successful. He thinks he'll be accepted, and he really wants to go there.

Philip Dean Rafer called me today. He told me he was very impressed with you.
Robbie He's a nice man. He was very kind.

Philip He told me you had some doubts about wanting to go to Michigan.
Robbie Yes. I do. I'm just not sure about what I want to do.

Philip That's OK.
Robbie You understand?
Philip Let me tell you something, Robbie. Something that might be surprising to you.
Robbie What? Tell me.
Philip Well, Grandpa wanted me to study engineering, like him. Well, I wasn't clear about my future, but I knew engineering was not for me.

Robbie What did you tell Grandpa?
Philip The truth.
Robbie Then you're not upset about my not wanting to go into medicine?
Philip I'm not upset at all. I'm just happy that we're able to talk about it.
Robbie I am too, Dad.
Philip I suppose you want to apply to Columbia.
Robbie Yes, but I also wanted to apply to several other colleges.
Philip I thought you wanted to go to Columbia.
Robbie Well, I might want to go to Columbia. But I might not. I just want to be able to make my own decision.

Philip You're a real Stewart!
Robbie And if I think about it long enough, you never know...
Philip Never know what?
Robbie If I make my own decision, I might choose Michigan.
Philip Robbie, you're something! You know, when I was your age, said exactly the same thing to Grandpa.