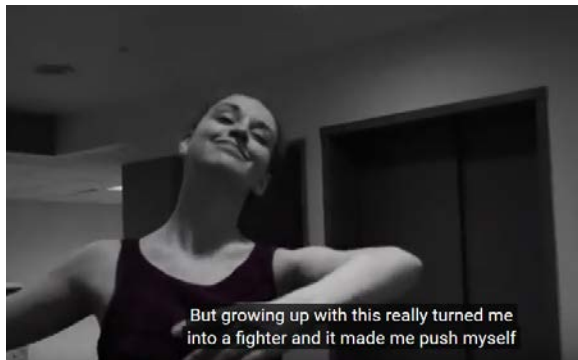


National Center for College Students with Disabilities' Student Video Discussion Guide:

"The Colors of Chronic Illness"



About this video

July 2017 - Runtime: 7:09

Filmmaker

Bethany Smith, Philadelphia, PA

Bethany is a student studying Film at Temple University. She identifies as a person "alternatively battling and managing" Postural Orthostatic Tachycardia Syndrome and made this film as a result of outreach to others with chronic illnesses to share their stories.

Film Synopsis

"The Colors of Chronic Illness" is a short film taking a close look at the views of three 'silent sufferers'. The three women interviewed in the film suffer from various illnesses and have unique outlooks on life due to their experiences. The video illustrates that chronic illness is more prevalent than the public may believe, and that people who suffer from these illnesses live among us, sometimes unnoticed. The intrinsic message of the film is that no disability is too great that it cannot be overcome.

How to Use this Video and Guide

"The Colors of Chronic Illness" is one of the winners of the 2017 Student Video Competition sponsored by the National Center for College Students with Disabilities. College students were asked to tell their stories in a creative way.

This, and the other videos in this series, can be viewed by individuals, groups or classes.

Before viewing the video, you may want to discuss or jot down your current thoughts and understanding of people with disabilities.

The questions on page 2 are designed for personal reflection or discussion-starters.

Questions for Discussion

1. Each woman in the film talk about issues and challenges that they face. What are some of the issues or questions that they articulate in this film? What are ways that they've dealt with this?

2. Emily states that she wouldn't be who she is without Crohn's.

Discuss that attitude in light of Question 1 above.

3. The filmmaker stated in her application, "I was inspired to create this film one night when I was at a low point health wise and happened to pass by a ribbon awareness board my resident advisor had posted on my floor. Although my illness was not specifically listed on the board, chronic fatigue syndrome was; this was close enough for me to become very touched by the simple act. I started to wonder if I wasn't the only one who had been affected by it and I soon started to reach out through social media to find other students with chronic illnesses who would be interested in interviewing on camera."

What did you learn about the experience of living with a hidden or non-apparent disability from this film?

4. "Overcoming one's disability" is expressed a few times in this film. Disability activists often bristle at that concept since the "problem" related to disability lies in inaccessible environmental design, rather than in the person. Discuss why this is a negative concept. Do other people have to "overcome" their identities? What are

alternatives to the concept of "overcoming"?

5. If you could sit down with any of the people in the film, who would that be, and what further topics or questions would you like to discuss?

6. In what ways does the film bolster or change your perspective on people with disabilities?

7. What is the impact of the character's statement, "You never know who can't take a flight of stairs."?



To learn more about disability, college students with disabilities, or to get further resources, please visit the NCCSD at: nccsdonline.org or contact us at:

nccsd@ahead.org

Phone (toll-free): 844-730-8048

VideoPhone for Deaf Callers:
651-583-7499

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