

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

## "Underneath Makeup & Masks"



### About this video

July 2017 - Runtime: 1:51

### Filmmaker

Katie Demko, Ohio

Katie created this short as a "Concept in 60" project for a class at The Ohio State University in response to topics brought up during the semester. With the support of her instructor, Dr. Margaret Price, Katie further enhanced its artistic and academic vision.

### Film Synopsis

Most broadly, the concept that I chose to convey in my project was that of invisible disabilities. Invisible disabilities are not easily understood by others, persons with such disabilities often seem to pass as "normal," whether or not by choice, and there are many layers to these experiences and individuals. Just as a person may put on makeup to conceal a blemish on one layer of the self, they may say something or behave in a certain way to mask other layers of the self, including layers of disability.

### How to Use this Video and Guide

"Underneath Makeup & Masks" 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. This film is less than 2 minutes long with no dialogue. What is the filmmaker trying to say about disability given the society we live in? Do you find it an effective way to convey the disability experience?
2. What questions do you have for the person in the video?
3. The filmmaker notes the many layers to the experience of people with "hidden" or non-apparent disabilities, and the resultant "passing" as "normal." Identity has a social component; what does it mean to "pass" or alternately "disclose" one's disability identity?
4. What are the costs and benefits of "passing"?
5. What are the costs and benefits of telling others about one's disability?
6. How do the experiences gleaned from Questions 4 and 5 apply to people with other identities (e.g. people of color, LGBT people)?
7. In what ways does the film bolster or change your perspective on people with disabilities?



To learn more about disability, college students with disabilities, or to get further resources, please visit the NCCSD at: [nccsonline.org](http://nccsonline.org) or contact us at:

[nccsd@ahead.org](mailto:nccsd@ahead.org)

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

VideoPhone for Deaf Callers:  
651-583-7499

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