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

“Day by Day: Artists with Disabilities at Tufts”

Film Synopsis

"Day by Day" is a short documentary about the experiences of artists living with disabilities who attend school at Tufts University. We talked with six artists over the course of a month, seeing their work and hearing their stories. The film was created by Ray Bernoff and Benjamin Hosking in collaboration with Tufts Film and Media Studies and Student Accessibility Services.

How to Use this Video and Guide

"Day by Day" 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.

About this video

July 2017 - Runtime: 18:33

Filmmakers

Benjamin Hosking, Los Angeles
Ray Bernoff, Boston

Ben and Ray both identify as students with disabilities. Ben is now a graduate who has previously directed and produced narrative shorts, and Ray is a senior who has worked on documentaries and narrative shorts in a variety of roles.
Questions for Discussion

1. The film makers state, in making this film, that they believe "...art can influence disability and disability can influence art...." In what ways is this true?

2. In the "Struggles" section, Musician Willow speaks about society's negative perception of disability. What are some of the struggles that the artists articulate in this film? What are ways that they've dealt with this?

3. Artist McKinzey mentions that she was "...brought up to view [dyslexia] as a good thing...."

Artist Mushka states, "I feel like I just wouldn't have the same draw towards art if I didn't have my dyslexia, because maybe I wouldn't be as creative or as inclined to be an artist."

Discuss their attitude in light of Question 2 above.

4. Mushka talks about making art from found objects and "...finding places where they fit, or don't fit...." How do you see this related to the experience of disability?

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. Are you an artist or have you participated in artistic or creative expression? How have you revealed yourself in art? What have you learned about yourself through art?

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