

Learning
enabled

Seven students
Seven stories

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Colum

Physical Disability



Synopsis:

This film tells the story of Colum, a wheelchair user who also has an impairment affecting his arms and hands. It takes a little longer to get around campus and sometimes there are obstacles – quite literally – in his path. However, he participates fully in class and is assisted in carrying out the experiment described by his Chemistry lecturer. He has a notetaker to record the details of his work for submission later on.

Two minute free-write:

- What is your immediate response to this story? What questions do you have about this story?

Questions for group discussion:

- Clarification: did everyone pick up on the details of this story, and the nature of the student's disabilities?
- You have had a short time to reflect in free-writing for two minutes. If you have a question following the two-minute free-write, can we share those questions?
- If this student came to your class, what accommodations would you need to make for him?
- Would you consider the accommodations you saw in the story to be 'reasonable'?
- How do other students respond to classmates who have physical disabilities?
- Do you think this story was true to life?

Finding out more:

- You can find out more about this topic at the AHEAD website, <http://www.ahead.ie>
- Do you know who to talk to in your own department or organisation about supporting students with physical disabilities?
- What information has your institution provided to help you?