

## Maysoon Zayid - Disability Awareness

### “I got 99 problems...palsy is just one”

**Objective:**

Students will build awareness about the realities and myths of cerebral palsy (and disabilities in general), and then discuss their own thoughts on the subject. The purpose of the lesson in general is to build empathy, acknowledge bias, and encourage students to appreciate individual differences.

**Time & Materials:**

Anywhere from 30-60, depending on discussion time.

**Prior to activity:** Generate “Group Norms” to make the following discussion to take place in a safe environment. Here are some ideas:

- Allow people to say mistakes
- Allow people to say the wrong words
- Do not judge
- What is said here stays here
- Ask class for others...

**Step One:** Preface the video with a brief intro about what they are going to see. You can say something like “Maysoon Zayid is a comedian and an advocate for people with disabilities. In this TED talk she shares her experiences as a woman with cerebral palsy and how it affects her daily life.”

**Step Two:** Show the video to students:

[http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buRLc2eWGPQ&desktop\\_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DbuRLc2eWGPQ&app=desktop](http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=buRLc2eWGPQ&desktop_uri=%2Fwatch%3Fv%3DbuRLc2eWGPQ&app=desktop)

**Step Three:** Have students spend a few minutes writing down (on the provided handout) their reactions to the video and their responses to the following questions:

- 1) Were you surprised by anything Maysoon Zayid said? If yes, what was most surprising and why?
- 2) Explain how Maysoon Zayid’s experiences may have changed any of your thoughts about people with disabilities.
- 3) What are some reasons why Maysoon Zayid wants society to hear her story?
- 4) What are some ways that you may feel similar to Maysoon Zayid in terms of feeling different or misunderstood by your friends, family or other people around you?

They can use bullet points to express their ideas or do a quickwrite. You could also have students do a pair-share to discuss their reactions.

**Step Four:** Debrief the video by having willing students share their answers to the discussion questions. Discuss why it is important to know the facts about disabilities, and how this knowledge helps us to appreciate our individual differences.

**Student Reflection – Maysoon Zayid TED Talk**

Please answer the following questions once you have watched TED Talk.

- 1) Were you surprised by anything Maysoon Zayid said? If yes, what was most surprising and why?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 2) Explain how Maysoon Zayid's experiences may have changed any of your thoughts about people with disabilities.
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
- 3) What are some reasons why Maysoon Zayid wants society to hear her story?
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
  
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