

## Schizophrenia: A Beautiful Mind (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

### Objective

Obtain an understanding of the perceptions and media portrayals of an individual with schizophrenia.

### Synopsis

John Forbes Nash Jr. is a mathematician who has schizophrenia. This film follows him from his doctoral studies to the later years of his life and career as it documents the effect of this disorder on his personal and professional life.

### Activity

View the following movie and be prepared to discuss the questions below in class.

Title: *A Beautiful Mind* (2002)

Studio: Universal Pictures

#### For Your Information

The typical symptoms of an individual with schizophrenia include trouble distinguishing reality from fantasy, problems communicating with others, and difficulty maintaining relationships. To learn more about schizophrenia or emotional disturbance in general, visit:

- [Schizophrenia](#) (National Institute of Mental Health)
- [Emotional Disturbance](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)

### Questions/Discussion Topics

1. Describe how people treat John Nash once they are alerted to his disorder.
2. This film is based on a true story. Do you believe the portrayals of the character and his relationships are realistic? Explain.
3. Do you think John should have been treated differently both medically and emotionally? Please explain and include information on how this could have changed his life.
4. This film contains several scenes depicting treatments that John receives in the hospital. Why do you think the filmmakers chose to show these scenes in this manner?
5. Do you think that insulin shock therapy is an appropriate treatment for people with schizophrenia? Explain.
6. What types of supports does John Nash need to lead a successful life?