

Intellectual Disability: Forrest Gump (Movie)

Est. Time: 2 Hours Viewing/45 Minutes Class

Objective

Develop a better understanding of the misperceptions of individuals with an intellectual disability and how they can be portrayed in the media.

Synopsis

This fictitious story chronicles the life of Forrest Gump. Although Forrest encountered challenges due to an intellectual disability, he was able to accomplish many things, including becoming an All-American athlete, a Vietnam War hero, and the owner of a successful company, as well as accidentally influencing a number of important twentieth-century historical events.

Activity

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

Title: *Forrest Gump* (1994)

Studio: Paramount

For Your Information

To learn more about intellectual disabilities before completing this question, visit:

- [Intellectual Disability](#) (Center for Parent Information and Resources)

Questions/Discussion Topics

1. List some of the words used to describe Forrest throughout the movie.
2. Discuss how Forrest dealt with the attention (both negative and positive) he received.
3. Even though this story is fictitious, do you believe Forrest was treated fairly? Why or why not?
4. Is the portrayal of Forrest's interactions and relationships with others realistic? Explain.
5. Who were his biggest advocates in the film? Briefly describe how each advocated for him.