

DOCUMENTARY DISCUSSION GUIDE

brainstorm

BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

CONTENTS

I. BEFORE THE FILM

II. AFTER THE FILM

III. ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR MEDICAL
STUDENTS AND RESIDENTS

***Brainstorm* uses the new 2017 Classification of Seizure Types released by the International League Against Epilepsy.

<http://onlinelibrary.wiley.com/doi/10.1111/epi.13671/full>

BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

BEFORE THE FILM

Filmmaker Stacia Kalinoski is sharing her personal story to help everyone understand epilepsy better — not just the general public, but school staff, emergency responders and medical professionals. Stacia hopes through education, she can help reduce the stigma surrounding epilepsy.

1. How many people in the room have been impacted somehow by epilepsy?
2. Have any of you ever witnessed a seizure? If so, what did it look like?
3. What do you know about epilepsy at this point?
4. Would you be able to recognize the multiple types of seizures?
5. Do you feel epilepsy has a stigma? Why?

BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

AFTER THE FILM

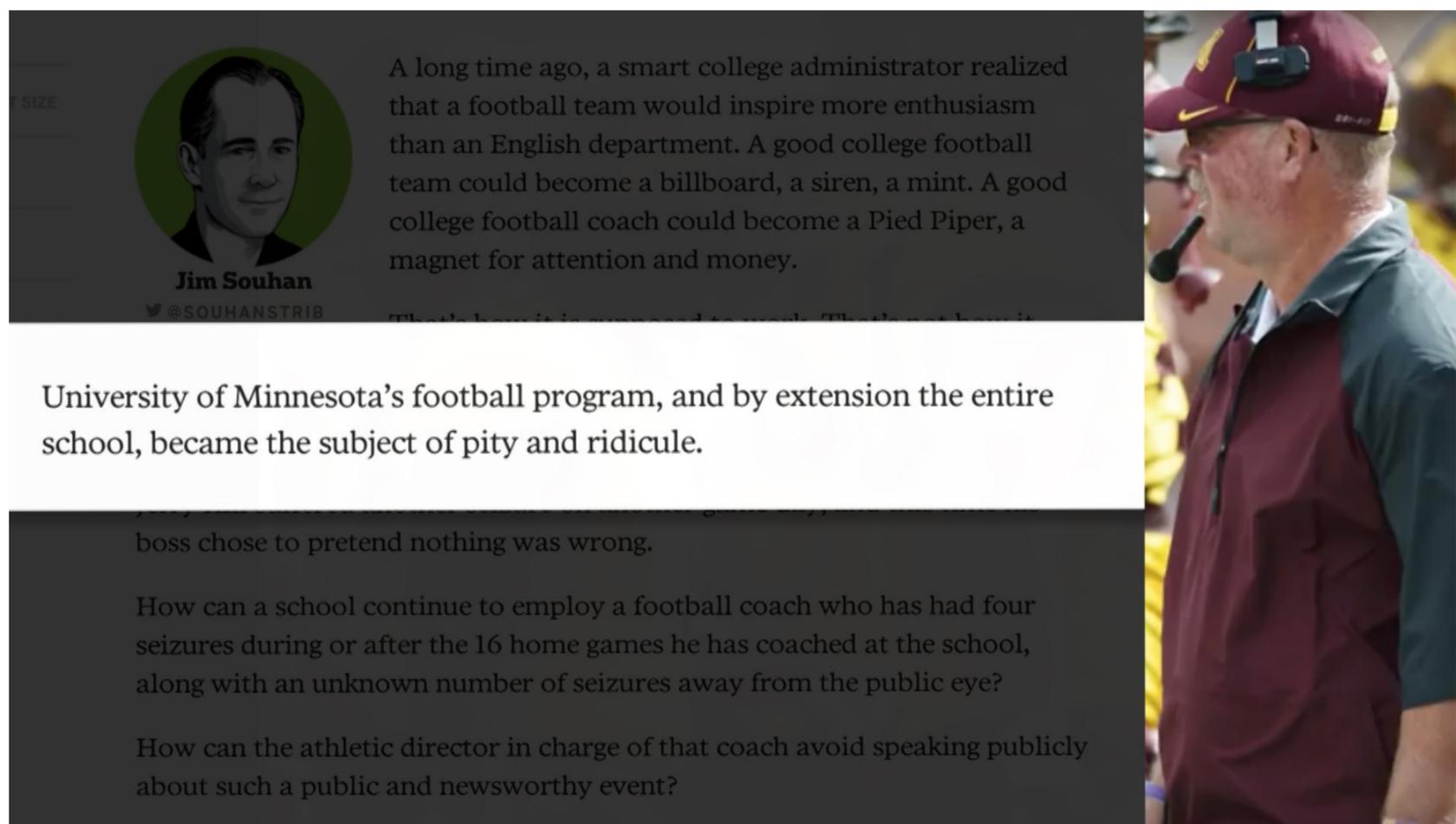
6. Describe a powerful moment in *Brainstorm* that really opened your eyes to epilepsy. Why was it compelling? Will it stick with you?
7. What was your first reaction to seeing Stacia's seizures? What were your assumptions?
8. Stacia showed her seizures and Billy's, which were focal aware and focal impaired. What is the difference?
9. Did the film help you understand the two different classifications — focal and generalized epilepsy?



BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

AFTER THE FILM (Continued)

10. *Brainstorm* addresses stigma and denial. What was your reaction to the experiences Coach Kill and Stacia had with stigma?



The image is a screenshot of a tweet from Jim Souhan (@SOUHANSTRIB). The tweet text reads: "A long time ago, a smart college administrator realized that a football team would inspire more enthusiasm than an English department. A good college football team could become a billboard, a siren, a mint. A good college football coach could become a Pied Piper, a magnet for attention and money. The University of Minnesota's football program, and by extension the entire school, became the subject of pity and ridicule. The athletic director in charge of that coach avoided speaking publicly about such a public and newsworthy event." The tweet includes a profile picture of Jim Souhan and a timestamp of "11:11 AM · 11/11/2017". To the right of the tweet is a photograph of a man in a maroon cap and jacket, likely Coach Kill, speaking into a microphone.

University of Minnesota's football program, and by extension the entire school, became the subject of pity and ridicule.

boss chose to pretend nothing was wrong.

How can a school continue to employ a football coach who has had four seizures during or after the 16 home games he has coached at the school, along with an unknown number of seizures away from the public eye?

How can the athletic director in charge of that coach avoid speaking publicly about such a public and newsworthy event?

11. How do you think you may have reacted if you saw one of their seizures in public?
12. Aside from her auras, Stacia had no idea what she was doing during her seizures, and she didn't have control over her actions. What would you ask Stacia if you could about her experience?

BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

AFTER THE FILM (Continued)

13. If you could require one person or group to see *Brainstorm*, who would it be? And what do you hope the takeaway would be?
14. What did you learn about epilepsy that you wish everyone knew?

BRAINSTORM DISCUSSION GUIDE

ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS FOR MEDICAL STUDENTS

15. What are a few things that can cause the brain to start seizing?
16. Why would one seizure cause screaming, while another cause convulsions?
17. Just by witnessing a seizure, would you be able to tell the difference between a focal aware (formerly called simple partial) and absence seizure? They can look similar, so how are they different?
18. Stacia talked about being removed from an airplane after having a seizure. The airline removed her, citing her safety and the safety of other passengers.

As a doctor, what might you do if you saw someone having a seizure on an airplane? Or in another public place, like at a sporting event or shopping mall?

19. How could this film help you better care for any patient, not just one with epilepsy?
20. Do you think there's anything the medical community could do differently to help educate the public about seizures?