



Discussion Questions for Jessica's Story

RCORP-ETC and Project Hope are producing digital stories that showcase how community members have been affected by opioid use disorder in rural East Tennessee. Digital stories have the power to transform communities, because they help people learn about and understand the experiences of others. To facilitate this, we have created discussion guides to accompany each of our digital stories. Discussing the events and themes of a digital story can improve understanding of the opioid epidemic and its effects, and ultimately reduce the stigma associated with opioid use disorder.

1. Let's start by recapping the video. In what ways was Jessica affected by the opioid epidemic?
2. Which parts of Jessica's story impacted you the most?
3. Jessica's mother encouraged her to plan her own funeral arrangements. In what ways are family members affected by someone's substance misuse? How can we offer support to those affected by the person misusing substances?
4. Jessica talks about harm reduction strategies in the video. Discuss what harm reduction concepts are. Why are harm reduction strategies (e.g., naloxone training, safe-syringe sites, etc.) considered controversial?
5. Try to identify any stereotypes you may hold about individuals with substance use disorders. What assumptions do you tend to make about people who use substances? What did Jessica's story teach you about people living with addiction?
6. How, if at all, did your opinion of the opioid epidemic change as you watched the video?
7. Are there any lingering questions from the video you are still thinking about?

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