

ACTIVITY 2: CODING

Time: 15 minutes

Instructions: Write codes from a brief transcript (Michael J. Fox interview excerpt). You can highlight text, add notes, and comments to indicate your codes.

INTERVIEW: KATIE COURIC AND MICHAEL J FOX

KC: Tell us what you were experiencing that day and what we're seeing as a result?

MF: Well, on any given day I have a thousand different things I can feel. I go through a million cycles. For example, right now this is a dearth of medication, not by design. I just take it and kicks in when it kicks in. Sometimes it kicks in too hard and then you get what you call dyskinesia, which is that rocking motion.

KC: When you go from side to side... and that's actually caused by the medication?

MF: That's caused by the medication. What happens is when you I'm 15 years out from diagnosis, one of the problems with medication, one of the reasons they are looking for cures particularly for Parkinson's is that the medication only has an efficacy that lasts so long and then at a certain point it ceases to, or it works with horrible side effects, which is the dyskinesia that you see. But on any given day, I can't design where I'm going to be at any given time. You just take the medication and hope for the best. If it's humid that day, if you get stressed that day, if you eat the wrong thing, if you have too much protein, it doesn't kick in. It's just part of living with this. It's funny the notion that you could calculate it for effect. People with Parkinson's out there, we're just kind of go...would that we could.

KC: In fact, it was that suggested you had failed to take your medication intentionally so when you did that ad you'd be more symptomatic and therefore, more sympathetic.

MF: The irony of it is, I was too medicated ... The thing about being symptomatic is it's not comfortable. Nobody wants to be symptomatic. It's like you want to hit yourself with a hammer, you know, you want at all times to be as comfortable as you can be. And at this point now, if I didn't take medication I wouldn't be able to speak. I'd have a mask face and I wouldn't be able to speak and I'd lock up and freeze and not be able to move. So, there's no time I'm not medicated. It's just a matter of titrating the medication to make sure it works as best it can. It's constant throughout the day... I'm saying, well, I'm going to do something at 2 o'clock so from about ten o'clock on it's all towards getting to where I need to be at 2. It's the kind of stuff that people with Parkinson's live with everyday.

KC: Could you have waited to do that ad when you had less dyskinesia, for example?

MF: Well, when do you know that's going to be? You don't know when that's going to be.... Funny, my mother was visiting that day, was in the backroom and she was saying throughout the filming of it -- and she was talking to my friends back there-- and she was saying "he's trying so hard to be still" and so she was the one actually when the comments were made, she was the only who was really angry and she said "I can't even see straight." I said 'Mom, just relax, it's okay, don't worry about it. But, it's just not that simple. That's why we're doing this. Not only people with Parkinson's. People who have spinal cord injuries. People who have the ticking clock of ALS, where they waste away, kids who are born with juvenile diabetes, I mean, potentially there's answers for those people and we're not interested in being

exhibitionists with our symptoms or asking for pity or anything else. We're just resolved to get moving with this science. It's been a long time. It's not a time neutral observation. It's not something we can sit back and abstractly talk about. While people are talking about it, there are people attached to this issue, which is one of the reasons I did this. It's not necessarily the most comfortable thing for me to do and necessarily what I want to be doing. I've got 4 kids. I like to be spending time with them, but if it takes seeing a face that people recognize and say 'hey, I know that guy,' maybe they'll realize that they know other people. There's 100 million Americans that are either touched by an incurable illness, or know somebody who has incurable illness, or love somebody who has incurable illness.
