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Fictions of Disability  
Prof. Julia Rodas  
March 13, 2018  
Response #6

Today I went to watch the Reel Shorts films at the music building. The films I watched are “Leo & Carol” directed by Alvaro Campos and Dafne Capella, “Running Breathless” directed by Laurel Schwartz, “A Self Portrait, How We Met Laurel” directed by Arpita Aneja, and “Just Go” directed by Pavel Gumennikov. These four short films reminded me of a quote I read from Paul K. Longmore in his theoretical text “why I burned my book and other essays on disability” in chapter seven “screening stereotypes” where he said, “both fictional and nonfictional stories convey the message that success or failure in living with a disability results almost solely from the emotional choices, courage, and character of the individual” (139). In other words, if these people from these films did not have the determination that they had, they probably would not be in the position that they are right now. Practically, these films show that despite of their disability they all choose to succeed in life. Also, I would like to say that I did find all of the films inspirational and makes me think about how fortunate I am. However, it makes me feel bad to feel inspired by them because I know that it maybe the point of the film makers to make me feel like that. I know now that we all get manipulated like this but is always good to take a step back and be critical about it.