

Changing By The Minute: Bonus Clips

Discussion Guide for Professional Development with Educators, Administrators, New Teachers and Teacher Candidates

CBTM Bonus Clips are intended to augment and extend discussions related to the 62 min. documentary film “Changing By the Minute.” These Bonus Clips are not a comprehensive presentation of issues — but an assortment of commentary, anecdotes, and insights that may be of additional interest.

The documentary “Changing By The Minute” follows students through one year in an unconventional public middle school, highlighting essential issues in early adolescent development and middle grade education. Discussion guides are available for using the film with current educators, teacher candidates, after school/out of school staff, and directly with early adolescents.

Section 1: One Middle School’s Philosophy

00:08

1. Excited About Learning: Stereotypes vs. Realities of Early Adolescence

- How do you feel about this principal’s comments?
- What are the implications of stereotyping young adolescents?

01:03

2. No Pitcher of Knowledge: The Role of Students In Their Learning

- What does it mean for a student to be responsible for their learning?
- How does your teaching reflect what you believe about how students learn?
- In what ways does your teaching reflect a give and take?

02:26

3. Flexibility and Risk Taking vs. Non-Negotiables

- Why is it important to have faculty and administration on the same page regarding the vision and mission of a school?
- What might be some non-negotiables of a middle school?
- What are the non-negotiables of your school? (tenets, rules, values)

03:28

4. Different Types of Successful Schools

- How does the size of the school tie into the vision of this school?
- What are the benefits of a large school? What are the benefits of a small school?
- Is it important for students to have a choice about what kind of school to attend?

Section 2: School Structures and Practices

04:14

5. Mixed Grade Project-Based Work

- What are the benefits of mixed grade or multi-aged approaches?
- What challenges can you imagine?
- What skills do students need to engage successfully in project-based work?
- What skills do teachers need to successfully implement project-based learning?

06:02

6. Exploratory Curriculum

- What role does exploration play in learning?
- Why is exploration particularly important in the middle grades?
- What are three ways schools could integrate exploratory learning into the curriculum?

07:26

7. Student-Led Conferences

- What are the benefits of student led conferences and student self-assessment?
- What are other forms of student self-assessment?
- What preparation is necessary for a successful student-led conference on the part of students? What about teachers?

Section 3: Responding to Who Students Are and What They Need

08:10

8. Whole People: Embracing Multifaceted Identities

- What does it mean to treat a student as a whole person, and how should that impact what we do as educators?
- Why is it important for teachers to understand students' identities and the experiences they bring to school with them?

09:38

9. Case Study A: Executive Function

- The state of the backpack reflects the state of the brain of the child. Do you agree or not agree with this statement, and why?
- What do you notice about Huck's developmental needs?
- How would you, as a teacher, respond to Huck's needs?
- On a school level, what structures and policies would support students like Huck?

11:31

10. Case Study B: Accommodating Disabilities and Learning Challenges

- How does this student describe himself?
- How do others describe him?
- What do those descriptions suggest about the school's climate?

13:25

11. Case Study C: Scaffolding Success and Appreciating Students' Strengths

- What do you notice about this student's developmental needs and interests?
- How would you as an educator respond to these needs and interests?
- On a school level, what structures and policies would support students like Michael?

Section 4: Issues in Early Adolescence

19:25

12. Parents Know Nothing: Social Development

- What can students learn from each other?
- How can educators create opportunities for students to learn from each other?
- How can educators create opportunities for students to learn about themselves?

20:21

13. Peer Groups: Making Friends, Sticking with Friends

- What do kids learn from managing relationships with their peers?
- Do teachers, admins, counselors, afterschool staff have a role in student friendships?

21:18

14. Identity: Discovering Who You Want To Be

- What roles do hairstyles and clothing serve in self-expression and self-discovery?
- What identities do your students bring to school with them?
- How do these compare to your own personal social identities (now as adults or when you were a middle schooler)?

22:53

15. Social Media: More vicious than they would ever be in person

- What challenges can social media present for young adolescents?
- How can teachers help students use social media in responsible ways?
- How do young adolescents develop a capacity for conflict resolution - is it learned?

25:56

16. Puberty: Something Took Over My Body

- How does puberty impact learning?
- What should educators teach students about their changing bodies ?
- What are the implications for teaching students who are going through puberty?

25:56

17. I am not a distraction: Student Voice & Activism

- Should schools encourage student voice and activism?

Changing By The Minute

A 62min documentary film providing an asset-based view of early adolescence, and part of the “Changing By The Minute documentary tool kit.” These resources are intended to help professionals, students, and families think optimistically and creatively about the middle school years with the hope of alleviating some of the stress and distress experienced by early adolescents.

Film Credits

Producer/Director
Camilla Calamandrei

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Camilla Calamandrei

Composers
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Aaron Srdoc

Designer & Animator
Garry Waller

Colorist
Courtney Feemster

Sound editor & re-recording mixer
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Discussion Guide Credits

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